LO: To confidently retrieve from a text.

**A History of Bradford**

**BRADFORD IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

Bradford began as a village by a ford (or shallow river). Brad meant broad. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 the village by the broad ford had grown quite large (by the standards of the time) with perhaps 300-350 people.

Bradford was turned into town when the villagers were allowed to hold a weekly market. In those days there were no shops and anyone wishing to buy or sell anything had to go to a market. Once the market was up and running craftsmen would come and live in Bradford and sell their goods at the market.

**BRADFORD IN THE 18th CENTURY**

In the early 18th century Bradford was a small market town with a population of, perhaps, 4,000. Then, in the late 18th century, Bradford was transformed by the industrial revolution.

The textile industry in the north of England boomed. The first bank in Bradford opened in 1771. Bradford canal was built in 1774 and in 1777 it was connected to the Leeds-Liverpool canal. The improvement in communications boosted industry in the town. In 1800, the hand loom weavers, who wove cloth in their own homes were replaced by mills in which machines were worked by steam engines.

Conditions in these 'dark, satanic mills' in Bradford were dreadful. A 12 hour working day was common, even for young children. Overseers carried leather straps to hit children who were lazy or careless.

**BRADFORD IN THE 19th CENTURY**

In the late 18th century and early 19th Bradford grew very rapidly. In 1780 it had a population of about 4,500. By 1801 it had more than 6,000 inhabitants. By 1851 the population of Bradford had reached an incredible 103,000. The huge rise in population was partly due to immigration from Germany and Ireland.

The very rapid growth of Bradford meant houses were built in a haphazard fashion. There were no building regulations until 1854 and most working class housing was horrid. There were no sewers or drains and overcrowding was common. Worst of all were the cellar dwellings. Whole families lived in damp, poorly ventilated cellars. Often poor families had no furniture. They used wooden boxes as tables and slept on straw or rags.

**BRADFORD IN THE 20th CENTURY**

In 1904 an Industrial Exhibition was held in Bradford. Cartwright Memorial Hall was built in 1904. The first council houses in Bradford were built in 1907. The Alhambra Theatre opened in 1914. Bradford Royal Infirmary was built in 1936.

Rapid Retrieval - Can you complete all these questions in less than 5 minutes? Time:\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How many people lived in Bradford in 1086?

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1. **Find and copy** two words that describe the mills in the 1800’s.

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1. True or false? The population of Bradford was over one hundred thousand by 1851. How do you know?

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1. Find and copy a phrase that shows families dwelled in terrible conditions in the 19th century.

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1. When did the Alhambra first open its doors?

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1. Read the text and highlight and vocabulary words you are not sure of.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unfamiliar Word | Clues and thoughts | Best guess for a synonym | Dictionary / online |
|  |  |  |  |
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2. Pick four words. Use the **unfamiliar word strategies** to write down your best, logical guess of a synonym or phrase.

4. The textile industry in the north of England boomed.

What does the word **boomed** suggest?

**Extension**

5. Summarise Bradford in the 18th and 19th century into 3 sentences.

6. *Bradford canal was built in 1774 and in 1777 it was connected to the Leeds-Liverpool canal.* Explain why this helped the Bradford textile industry boom.