

Kidderminster



Kidderminster first appeared in history as an Anglo Saxon settlement, Chedeminstre. It was named in the Domesday Book in 1086. Throughout history it has been an industrial town, first making woollen cloths from 1334 and later becoming famous for the carpets that are made in the town. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, opening in 1771, helped increase the trade to and from the town but then also contributed to the decline of the carpet industry in the 1970s.



Quick summary

We will be looking at different artefacts, including looms and materials to make carpets at the Museum of Carpet. We will also investigate photos and finished carpet samples from Kidderminster carpet factories.



Location



- Midlands town.
- Close to cities of Birmingham and Worcester.
- Linked by the canal to Worcester, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton.
- Linked by the railway to Oxford, Worcester, Stourbridge, Dudley and Wolverhampton.



Society

Social hierarchy within the carpet factories:

1. Factory Owners eg Henry Brinton
2. Masters eg John Pearsall
3. Engineers eg James Brindley (built the canal)
4. Spinners
5. Weavers eg William Charlton
6. Loom workers
7. Finishers



Main events

1334 – First mention of the woollen cloth trade
 1735 – the first 'Kidderminster Carpet' is made
 1771 – completion of Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal
 1783 – Brinton family first make carpet in Kidderminster
 1820 – Henry Brinton sets up the current 'Brintons Carpet' business
 1828 – Great Strike, led by William Charlton
 1852 – completion of the railway
 1878 – Michael Tomkinson crossed the Atlantic to purchase the Axminster Power Loom
 1949 – last commercial traffic on the canal
 1970s – decline of the carpet industry in Kidderminster
 2012 – Museum of Carpet opens



Vocabulary

canal – man-made waterway to allow boats to travel to different places.

decline – loss of numbers (less factories making carpets)

industrial/industry – making a product in a factory.

strike – refusal to work, in order to gain something from an employer

loom – a machine for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread

commercial – relating to business



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

