

## Task 10: Read the transcript

The Industrial Revolution and the rise of the cotton industry led to Manchester becoming the centre of the struggle of working class people who had no rights to vote. In 1819, 60,000 people attended a peaceful demonstration. However, the people were seen as radicalists and were attacked by the army. 15 people were killed and over 600 injured. The soldiers in the attack fought against Napoleon in the battle of Waterloo, but now the soldiers were killing their own people. The event took place in St Peter's Field and thus became known as The Peterloo Massacre.

This is Manchester Town Hall with Albert Square just in front of it. It is a Victorian neo-gothic building built in 1877. It has stunning architecture both inside and out. One of its many features is the mosaic floor which has 2 emblems: one is the flower of the cotton plant and the other a bee. The bee shown here is a worker bee and has become a symbol of Manchester's ingenuity, hard work and solidarity.

From this image it is difficult to see, but if you look very closely you will see there is no smoke coming out of the tall chimneys. The reason is that the people in the foreground are on strike due to the appalling working conditions and poor pay. As the Industrial Revolution progressed so did the rise of civil unrest.

For this reason, Manchester has a long tradition of working-class organisation and is the place where the Trades Union Congress was set up in the Mechanics' Institute in 1868. Its role was to fight for better working conditions.

However, the main reason for this building was to provide education to working-class men. The Mechanics' Institute is also interesting to us because this led to the foundation of what is now The University of Manchester.

Manchester is also home to the Suffragette movement. The Suffragette Movement was formed in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst. The movement fought for women's right to vote in public elections – what is universally known as female suffrage.

You may ask why there is a statue of Abraham Lincoln standing on a plinth in the middle of Manchester. The statue was given as a gift to Manchester for the support that Manchester working people gave for the abolition of slavery during the American Civil War.

In the southern states of America at that time, there was a blockade which meant that the cotton workers couldn't get access to raw cotton. This caused great unemployment for the Manchester cotton industry.

Manchester was also a centre of innovation and scientific thought. This is a painting of John Dalton the chemist who was pivotal in the new atomic theories which were establishing the idea of atoms. Other scientists associated with Manchester are James Joule, a physicist and mathematician who worked with concepts about energy, and Alan Turing, the mathematician and founder of computer science, of whom there is a statue in Manchester. The slide also shows a list of all the University of Manchester scientists who have won the Nobel Prize.

The image shows a replica of what came to be known as 'Baby', the first electronic stored-program computer. It had a memory of just 1 kilobyte and was built at the University of Manchester in 1948.

Another innovation from Manchester is graphene. Despite having a thickness of just one atom, it is an extremely strong material. As we speak, it is being developed by the scientists at the University of Manchester for various commercial purposes.