Bridging the gap: Geography
September 2019

To gain a better understanding of the type of work you will be completing, we have selected a topic that relates to part of the Changing Places unit. This means that by completing this piece of work you will have already started the course and can tick off one of the topics. It will also give all of you a chance to share your work and have a range of examples.

Place

The idea of 'place' can seem quite a simple topic, but it is actually very complex. A 'place' is space that has been given meaning by people. Places said to have a strong "sense of place" have a strong identity that is felt by people. A persons' perception of place can be defined by many different thing, for example natural aspects such as the climate or flora and fauna, or more cultural aspects such as the languages spoken in an area, the life experiences of an individual, media representations or how transport links and infrastructure create connections.

Task

Your task is to produce a report which answers the key question **'How has Sheffield changed over time?'** Your report should include a combination of written analysis, maps, photographs and diagrams, and should be made up of both primary and secondary data. Make sure you keep a record of any websites or books that you use.

Introduction

- Define 'place'

- A location map of Sheffield annotated with key details such as population, key industries etc. Remember it is important to describe location in terms of a range of scales.

- Background to you: How long have you lived in Sheffield? How long have your parents lived in Sheffield? Why did they move here? Remember, it is your life experiences which help to determine how you interpret a place.

Part 1: Perceptions of Sheffield

- What do you think about Sheffield? Why do you have these perceptions of this place?

- You need to speak to at least 5 other people about their perceptions of Sheffield. You could ask them to describe Sheffield in 5 words, or ask them how they think it has change over time. Do most people think positively or negatively of the place? Why do you think this is?

- Why do different people have different perceptions of Sheffield? Age? Gender? Life experiences?

Part 2: Sheffield in the past

- What was Sheffield like 10 years ago? 50 years? 100? Why was the steel industry so successful? You might want to do this as a timeline.

Part 3: How has Sheffield changed/what is the city like now?

- You will find this section a lot easier if you visit the place that you are talking about! It will also be useful to take photographs which you can then integrate into your report

- What has led to the decline in secondary industry in Sheffield? What impacts has this had?

- For this section you could provide a general overview of changes to Sheffield, or you may find it easier to research one of the following areas in more detail – including what has been done to the area, why the changes have been needed and how successful they have been so far.
  - o 'Grey to Green'
  - o Little Kelham
  - o The Moor redevelopment (including Castle Market)
  - o Meadowhall (and Ikea)
  - o Sheffield Retail Quarter
  - o Park Hill

Part 4: Why have these changed occurred?
- Consider: changes to funding (local and national), demands from the public, stakeholders, changes to the government, changes to the demographics of the city.

Part 5: The future
- What plans are there for further changes to Sheffield? Why do you think these changes will happen? Are they needed?

Useful websites:
http://www.thestar.co.uk/business/tech-business-zone-bid-for-city-centre-1-7195913
www.sheffieldretailquarter.com
http://www.localhistories.org/sheffieldtime.html
http://www.acegeography.com/park-hill.html
http://littlekelham.com/
http://eurolocal.info/resource/case-study-economic-regeneration-sheffield-uk
Video links:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta22CtZx7sw (or just watch the intro to the Full Monty!)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MITUTKKYyE

Sheffield Forum and local papers (e.g. The Star) are also useful for gaining an understanding into perception of place.