

Greater Manchester U3A Network



TOOLBOX



Introduction

This pack had its origin in the U3A's greater focus on research by member U3As as a learning activity, as well as a proposed joint project between the GMU3A network and Manchester University

'Cottonopolis' was chosen as a uniting theme for this initiative as it summarises the huge impact that the sudden industrial growth of Manchester had on all aspects of society.

What you will find in this resource pack is a set of notes organised by theme under the over-arching topic of 'Cottonopolis'. They are intended to help participating U3As of the Greater Manchester U3A Network assess what they might be able to contribute, either as individuals or as groups within their respective U3As, to co-ordinated research as a learning activity which may eventually benefit from a negotiated partnership with the University of Manchester.

The themes and associated notes provided here are intended to be suggestive rather than prescriptive. They should be seen as starting points for the dissemination of ideas or as catalysts for further investigation. Hopefully they will allow interested third-agers to claim a stake in an exciting project which seeks to take advantage of our unique geographical location in the world's first industrial city.

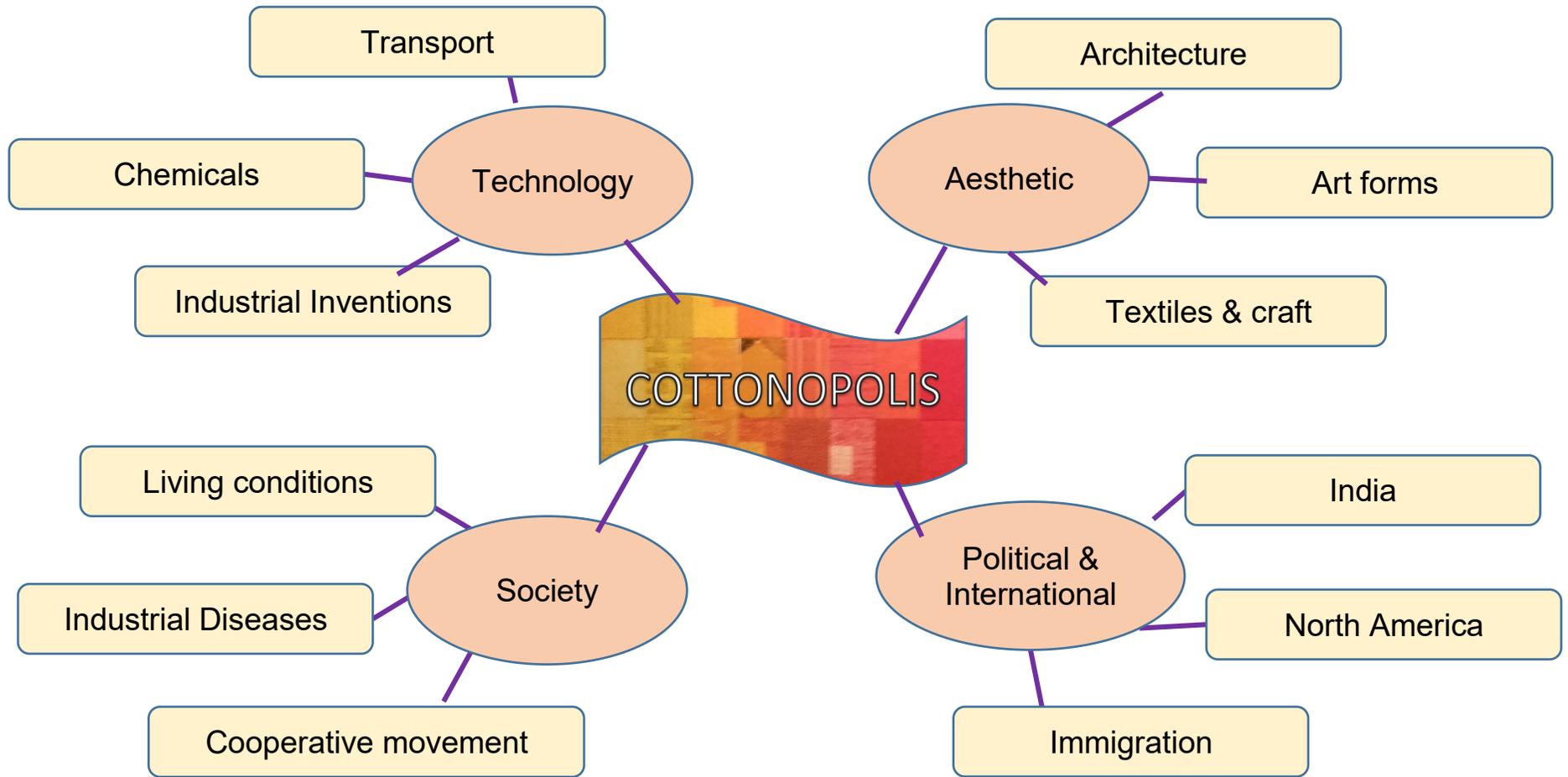
The notes in this pack do not yet address all aspects of the topic outlined in the diagram of 'the Cottonopolis Effect' on page 4. Please feel free to compile equivalent notes for any topic which still needs developing within your own fields of interest.



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Cottonopolis Themes Mind Map



Society: The Cooperative Movement

Conditions in the towns and villages that felt the impact of Manchester's growth led to the hugely popular Co-operative Movement.

Like our present U3As, the Co-op consisted of self-determining branches led by committed and enthusiastic members

There will be co-op history in YOUR area

Quick results for a single group session:

1. Do you remember your mum's co-op number
2. Where was your co-op
3. Where were other co-op shops, dairies or bakeries in the area
4. What kind of meetings/ activities did your co-op run eg lecture rooms, night classes, dances, children's outings
5. Anyone else's parents have their wedding reception at the co-op room?

Follow up session(s)

Stage one

These five points can be rounded out with photos, paper documents such as leaflets, and map extracts, from personal treasures, from the internet and from local studies sections

An additional thought: some co-ops built houses for working people, pre-social housing movement. Any in your area?

Stage two

Visit(s) to co-op archives at Balloon Street

Stage three

How shall we put this together?

A booklet / facebook / website

A means for continuing contribution (harder to keep up with printed work)



Aesthetic: Art Forms

A few suggested cultural milestones involving representations of Manchester which might provoke local interest among members to find out more:

Manchester Painters

Adolphe Valette
L S Lowry
Roger Hampson

Manchester Novelists

Elizabeth Gaskell, 'Mary Barton', 'North And South', et al.
Mrs G Linnaeus Banks, 'The Manchester Man'

Manchester Playwrights

Stanley Houghton ('Hindle Wakes', 1912)
Harold Brighouse ('Hobson's Choice', 1916)
Shelagh Delaney ('A Taste of Honey', 1958)
Bill Naughton (active 1957 to 1992)

Popular Music

The Twisted Wheel, The Oasis, The Jungfrau, The Hacienda
Tony Wilson's Factory Records
The Northern Soul scene
The Hollies, Oasis, The Smiths

Classical Music

The Halle Orchestra, Barbirolli and Sergeant
Manchester Camerata
Free Trade Hall and Bridgewater Hall
Manchester Composers Harrison Birtwistle Peter Maxwell Davis David Ellis
Alexander Goehr
Royal Manchester College of Music(1893) Royal College of Music(1920)
Cheethams school of music
Brass bands - connections with factories

Film representations of Manchester and environs

'Sing As We Go' (Bolton, 1934); 'A Taste Of Honey' (Salford, 1961); 'A Kind Of Loving' (Manchester, 1962); 'Spring and Port Wine' (Bolton, 1970); 'Looking For Eric' (Manchester, 2009)



Television Constructions of 'northern-ness'

Tony Warren, 'Coronation Street' (ITV, 1960 to date)
 Paul Abbott , 'Shameless' (C4, 2004-2013)
 Sally Wainwright, 'Scott and Bailey' (ITV, 2011-2016)
 Sydney Bernstein's Granada Television – 'From the North'
 'The Royle Family' (BBC, 1998-2000)
 'Cold Feet' (ITV, 1998-2003); 'Cutting It' (BBC, 2002-2005)
 'Clocking Off' (BBC 2000-2003)

Mass Observation and Culture

Bolton as 'Worktown': Mass Observation in the 1930s
 Tom Harrisson, Charles Madge, Humphrey Spender and Humphrey Jennings
 The first Newspaper The Manchester Weekly Journal published 1791

Leisure Pursuits

Wakes Weeks; Music Hall & Variety Theatre; Sport; Speedway at Belle Vue;
 Ballroom Dancing; Pub culture;
 Worship, churches, chapel, synagogue, Sunday School, Whit Walks
 Stories of Public houses in Manchester in particular those closed demolished
 or disappeared.

City Architecture

Statuary and Sculpture in GM public spaces
 The warehouses, mills and factories of Manchester used in cotton trade



Technology: Transport

An investigation into how modes of transport affected your area, and how they changed over time.

This is a huge subject - to make it manageable, divide it into phases

You will have fun being specific in your area - your canal bridges, your turnpike toll-houses and your street names will not be identical to everyone else's.

Example 1: Before the railways: canal, river, turnpike road, packhorse track

Task: Gather in map and photographic evidence that illuminates pre-industrial and early industrial transport in your area

Stage one

Use either local maps or online free archives to identify features in your area
Eg the earliest OS map of your area will be available free from www.nls.uk, and will be very useful as a starting point for discussion

Is there a canal? When did it arrive? Is it still there / used? Any buildings, stables, warehouses, wharfs

Canal bridges are important....they were built to accommodate rights of way that were already there when the canal arrived. Noting them in your local landscape gives pointers to what was there before the canal.

Stage two

Street, lane and road names aren't accidental....

Park Lane...whose park? What were its boundaries? Is there still a big house? Market street, Back lane, Mill Lane, Fishpool, Church Street....all may be part of a much older landscape.

Older maps and local lore can also point to field names that tell a story

Tenterfield, Southfield, Brickfield, Marfield

Sometimes these are incorporated into later suburban road names

Stage three

How to bring findings together and tell others about them

A booklet? Facebook / website?



Example 2

New roads, 1920s onwards

We are all acutely aware of the impact of road development and usage
Examine this at local level

Which came first - the roads or the houses / shops / factories....seems simple but when you start to pick over the sequence of events, you'll find each area has a unique set of circumstances that led to change happening. Free online maps at www.nls.uk go up to the 1930s

Did you get a ring road in the 1930s?

As suburbs grew, how did most people travel? Eg how long were journeys 40 years ago compared to today

When did individual car ownership start to rise?

And what about car parking

How have bus services and passenger train services changed in your area since the 1920s?

Photographs, route plans, bus shelters, tram shelters.....

Has motorway development had an impact in your area? What is the impact - this might be as much to do with perception and feeling, as practical issues like congestion and journey times.

What are the travel and transport issues in your area now?

Suggestion: group visit to Manchester Transport Museum

<http://www.gmts.co.uk/>

How to bring findings together and tell others about them

A booklet? Facebook / website?



Aesthetic: Textile and crafts

We have lost touch by and large with the manual processes that were the origins of the mighty cotton industry of Lancashire.

However, there has been a revival of interest in textile crafts of all kinds, and research shows that these kinds of activities have a positive impact on health and well-being.

We are also fortunate in having fabulous public sites and collections that reflect on the area's textile heritage.

Springboard for ideas: visit to a venue with renowned textile associations eg Whitworth Art Gallery; Macclesfield Silk Museum; Styal Mill

#1 Working with fibres

Exploring the hand processing of a variety of plant and animal resources, either spinning or felting them as appropriate

Record your results as you work! Digital snaps and a bit of explanation is all it takes.

Linen - a difficult one to process as it requires long soaking and the resultant liquid is highly toxic. Raw flax can be obtained from crafting suppliers

Nettle fibre! Apparently not as painful as it sounds

<http://www.jonsbushcraft.com/Nettle%20cordage.htm>

The same website has advice for using willow and lime wood as a source of fibre, although the processing takes a few stages

Cotton fibre from craft sources - doubt many will have grown their own....

Raw silk is available from craft suppliers

Wool: lots of different choices, from hedgerow gatherings to clippings from someone's pet lamb, to buying craft materials eg combed long-staple wool intended for felting projects

Depending on how easily grossed out you are, working with pet hair is an option. The obvious choice is angora rabbit, first obtain a pet angora rabbit and comb it regularly, saving the combings.....

Many people may have a pet long-haired rabbit that could substitute

People have been known to work with cat and dog hair.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2pAUAMT5l8> making a blanket from dog hair....



Skills to explore: fibre cleaning and combing, spinning, felting

Suggestion: combine different fibres and plant textures in a felted square
Most plant fibres alone will not felt together, but sandwiching them between layers of wool will secure them.

#2 Exploring Natural dyes

<http://www.wildcolours.co.uk/index.html> is a very useful information source

There was / is a great amount of variation in the end-products of the dyeing process, before the introduction of man-made chemical dyes. This is an opportunity to explore them.

Many commonly found products can be experimented with as dyestuffs eg onion, blackberries, raspberries, beetroot, nettles, tree barks, teabags etc etc

Great variation in dyeing results can be obtained from the same dyestuff using different mordants, and again many mordants are commonly-found household materials.

In addition the choice of fabric or fibre will produce different results using the same dyestuff.

Suggestion: choose a specific fibre or fabric and a specific couple of dyestuffs for each session

Record your work with digital snaps and a bit of explanation

How to share findings

Eg sew all samples together into a patchwork hanging

Frame individual pieces

Make objects from pieces eg cushion covers

What will you do to share your project with a wider audience?

Eg Facebook / website / display in local library (if any spared)



Political and International : Exploring the Indian Connection with Textiles

Example 1

Collect oral histories (rapidly disappearing) from people who worked in the Lancashire industry

Make notes of what they knew or thought of the industry's Indian links

Quite a few Indian words were in use in textile mills - can any of these be recalled or discovered?

Eg 'dhoties and sarees' were types of fabric woven at specific mills, but were there others too?

Collections of oral histories:

Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester local studies, Central Reference Library

Lancashire Archives at Preston (the North West Sound Arc hive Collection)

Discuss and plan with your group how to bring your findings together

Example 2

This sounds simple but it is real detective work when you get going.

Compiling lists of original primary resources relating to the Indian link.

These might be photographs; press cuttings / news items; newsreel or pathe news clips; local books and pamphlets; projects done by other people in the past

These could be anywhere - in libraries, archives museums, schools, colleges, factories, and commercial archives eg the Co-operative Society

It involves looking at things that are familiar, with fresh eyes

For example, wooden printing blocks in museums collections might have been imported from India - it could be that nobody has examined them for traces of Urdu writing

Are there recollections of playground ditties that reflect on links to india

Local or personal family photos are worth a fresh look - many mill workers had their photo taken with Gandhi when he visited in the 1930s

Discuss with your group how best to present your discoveries to a wider audience



Resources: Ideas for topics

- Cottonopolis and its influence on the creation of the cooperative movement.
 - See Booklet
- The influence of Manchester Cottonopolis on the textile industry
 - See booklet
- What you didn't know about the Industrial Revolution of Cottonopolis in Manchester.
 - Hidden cotton mills, The migration of workers to Manchester, New occupations e.g. engravers
- The birth of leisure pursuits as a result of the industrial Revolution in Manchester
 - Music, public houses, theatres, newspapers, walking
- Leisure pursuits in Cottonopolis Manchester
 - As above
- What was like to be a child during the Industrial Revolution.
 - Written from a child's perspective – from birth to death
- Could your occupation predict your life expectancy during the 'Cottonopolis' era in rural and urban Manchester
 - Effect of cotton fibres – coal fires – factory work before Factory Acts
- Communication in Cottonopolis Manchester
 - Birth of Manchester newspapers – politics (Unions) job opportunities, advertising arts, world news etc
- Parliamentary Acts brought about by the Industrial Revolution



Resources: Institutions

Libraries, Archives and Local Studies

Working Class Movement Library, Salford
 Manchester Central Library
 University of Manchester Library
 John Rylands Library
 Salford Library and Museums Study Centre, Peel Park
 Touchstones, Rochdale
 Wigan Archives and Local Studies
 Bolton local Studies Centre
 Bury Archives
 Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston
 Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, Duke Street, Chester

Each Greater Manchester Authority has at least one library with a local studies collection. Each operates differently in relation to library / museum provision in their authority - check details locally when you plan your visits.

The National Cooperative Archive, Manchester
 Manchester Medical school
 Manchester Evening News
 Other local newspapers
 ICI Archives
 Records on trade Unions Political parties, Co-op etc held at Manchester City Council www.manchester.gov.uk
 Daily Herald Archive (online)
<https://blog.msimanchester.org.uk/cottonopolis-daily-herald-archive/>

Greater Manchester Mills Survey, an ongoing project, archived material held at John Rylands Library
<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/guide-to-special-collections/atoz/greater-manchester-mill-survey-archive/>

Museums and Galleries

Manchester Art Gallery
 Whitworth Art Gallery
 Salford Art Gallery
 The Lowry
 Bolton Museum & Art Gallery
 Gallery Oldham
 Peoples' History Museum



Museum of Transport
Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester
Manchester Museum Oxford Road
Elizabeth Gaskell's House
Styal Mill
Greater Manchester Police Museum, Newton Street
Museum of Transport, Cheetham Hill
Other Greater Manchester museums and galleries

Theatres

Royal Exchange Theatre
Home
Palace Theatre
Manchester Music Hall
Bolton Octagon Theatre
Bury Met



Greater Manchester U3A Network

The Greater Manchester Network of U3As, formed in 2014, currently comprises *twelve* of the twenty-four U3As which exist in the Greater Manchester area, though it is open to other eligible U3As to apply to join at any time. The participating U3As are:

Bolton	Bury	Davyhulme	Hale & District
High Lane	Leigh & District	Littleborough	Oldham & District
Sale	Salford	South Manchester	Tameside

'Cottonopolis' Working Group contacts

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