

Soho House Trail

For Key Stage Three

MAP

Look at the overlay map of 1805 on today's map of Handsworth.
List 2 key changes that have occurred between 1805 and today

1805

Today

1. _____

2. _____

Which street names are still used today?

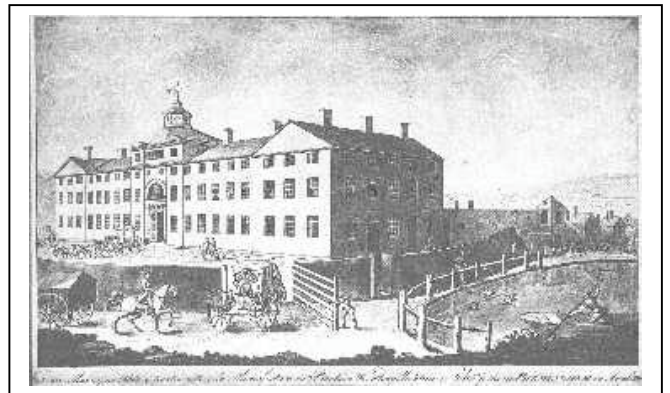
◆ _____

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MANUFACTORY

Matthew Boulton had a large and impressive factory or **manufactory** as it was called, and it became a huge tourist attraction!
Who designed it?

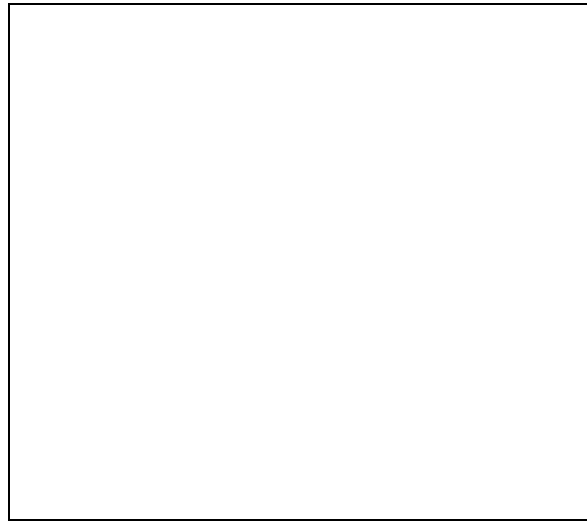


VISITOR CENTRE

Who was his business partner at the manufactory?

What goods did they manufacture? _____

Look in the display cases which show objects made in the Manufactory. Draw and name one of the objects in the box here:



Find the extract from the travel journal of Jabez Maud Fisher. How was the manufactory described.

Check out the chatelaines in the display cases ... what are they and who would have worn them?

LUNAR SOCIETY

Take a look at the information board ... why did they call themselves the Lunar Society?

Why did they meet at this time?

What was a major interest to them? _____

Soho House was one of the main meeting places of the Society.
List two facts about the following members of the society:

1. James Watt
2. Josiah Wedgwood
3. Thomas Day
4. Joseph Priestley

Identify this person



Look for the painting called *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump* by Joseph Wright of Derby, who is well known for his scientific paintings.

VISITOR CENTRE

Examine the painting carefully - why do you think it is so important? Imagine you're a curator! Write a short information label about what is going on, the dramatic atmosphere, light, shade, colour, expressions ...

Joseph Priestley, a member of the Lunar Society, is best known for his work on gases. What did he discover in 1772?

He later discovered a gas which he called **de-phlogisticated air**. What do we call this gas now?

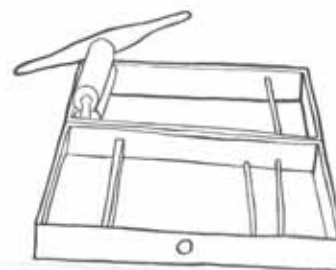
Matthew Boulton and other Lunar Society members had wide-ranging interests, unlike today's scientists who tend to specialise in a narrow field. Which members supported the establishment of a General Hospital in Birmingham?

Why was William Withering's work on foxgloves important?

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

In 1780 James Watt invented and patented a **copying machine**. Why was this such an important invention?

Why did the copy have to be read from 'the other side'?



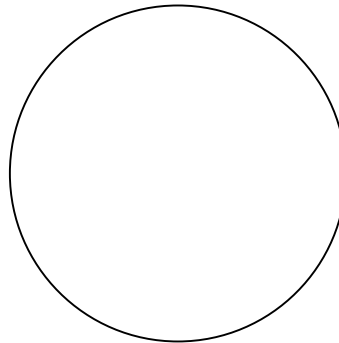
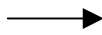
BALLOONING



In 1783 the first **hot air balloon flights** took place in France. Like everyone else, the Lunar Society members were fascinated. How did Priestley think that ballooning could be put to scientific use?

Which Lunar society members joined the campaign to end **slavery**?

What did Josiah Wedgwood produce to publicise the campaign? Draw it here



Which member partitioned Parliament? _____

At the time though many Birmingham traders profited from the slave trade. By the 1780s how many Birmingham guns had been sold to merchants involved in the slave trade?

One of the Lunar society members was a gun manufacturer. What was his name?

Guns were exchanged for Africans who were then shipped to the West Indies and the Americas and sold for slaves.

When was the slave trade abolished? Was it:

1850

1807

1837

PRACTICAL EDUCATION

The Lunar Society members were very interested in **education** for their daughters as well as their sons. What subjects did they ensure their sons were taught?

Why were these subjects important? _____

Do you think it was usual at that time for girls to receive the same education as boys? _____

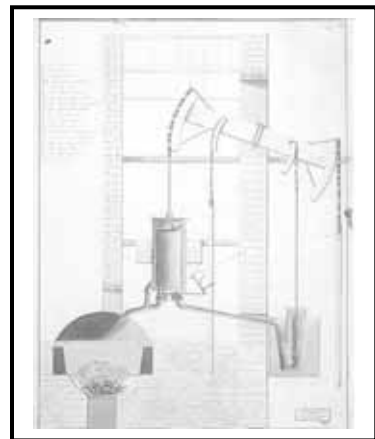
Practical Education was written by who? And what did it promote?

STEAM ENGINES

James Watt did not invent the steam engine, he improved on a design by Thomas Newcomen. What were the improvements?

What year was the Soho Foundry built?

1755 1775 1795



Why was it built?

How far away was it from the manufactory?

VISITOR CENTRE

What did Boulton & Watt build there? _____

How many were built during their partnership? _____

Where did they end up? _____

In addition, the engines were sold across Europe and to the West Indies where they were used in the sugar mills. The Foundry building is still in existence. It is the GEC Avery works in Smethwick.

Right ... last questions! Check out the information board relating to the final years of the Lunar Society.

Which member was a target of a violent mob, and why?

Where did he settle after leaving Birmingham? _____

When perhaps did the Lunar Society finally end? _____

Well done for completing the trail – we hope you enjoyed delving into the fascinating world of Matthew Boulton and his associates!