

# From Bike to BMW

## A KS2 History Workshop



### Overview

Explore the legacy of William Morris; his factory and later BMW's transformative impact on Oxford in our engaging museum workshop tailored for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Through hands-on exploration of original artefacts, group tasks, and inquiry-based learning, students delve into local history and uncover how Morris shaped Oxford's evolution. Our session promotes critical thinking, participation, and the enjoyment of a local history study.

### Session learning aims

We work with the students to help answer the enquiry question "How did William Morris and his factory change Oxford?"

### Proposed workshop plan

Welcome (20 min)

Within one of our dedicated learning spaces, the group is welcomed and introduced to the Museum and its collection. Pupils are given the workshop aims and told how we will reach them. We introduce the topic and give context as to how the story of William Morris and the factory in Cowley fits into the wider story of Oxford. For the rest of the session, pupils will be split into three groups and rotated around the following learning stations to focus on key parts of the story of William Morris and the factory.

Who am I? (25 min)

Students will explore, handle, and discuss a wide range of objects from the factory's past. Guided by the question "Who worked at the factory?", they'll uncover the stories behind the artefacts, match



labels to objects, and even discover the fascinating biography of two workers from the factory's history.

### Timeline Task (15 min)

Plotting a timeline from William Morris's birth to the present day, pupils will discover not only how the factory has changed over time, but also how the vehicles made there have evolved as well. Using a variety of images and other documents, pupils work as a group to order the key events in the history of William Morris, the factory and the wider community.



William Morris on his bike.  
©Oxfordshire History Centre



### Mapping Morris (10 min)

At the Maps table, students will delve into the changes the factory brought to Oxford. They'll examine historical maps, comparing features from 1910 to the present day. Using provided focus cards, they'll identify key locations and discuss how they've evolved. Finally, they'll reflect on the broader impact of the factory on Oxford's landscape.

### Gallery Visit (25 Min)

During the gallery visit, students will embark on an immersive exploration as a whole group. Armed with hunt sheets, they'll work collaboratively to uncover hidden treasures and gather information from the displays. After completing the tasks, they'll have the opportunity to delve deeper into Oxford's rich history, broadening their understanding and appreciation of the museum's exhibits.



### Plenary (10 Min)

We gather back in one of our learning spaces, share what has been discovered and answer the key enquiry question as a whole group.

## Suggested Supporting Activities

Before the session, research into the history of William Morris, the Morris Motors factory and the BMW Plant Oxford could be undertaken, this will aid the in-depth study we would do in the workshop.

Pupils could look at current and historical maps of Oxford, exploring important features, and their locations and understanding the role of a map key.

After the session biographies of William Morris could be made, and written or artistic work that explores life in the factory could also be produced.

## Curriculum links at Key Stage 2

History (a local history study)

- A study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (reflected in objects and topics selected)
- A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality (again reflected in objects and topics selected)

Geography

- Locate geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts, and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography.

## Workshop costs and other details

The workshop is 2 hours long and costs £4 per student, with a minimum charge of £75 per session. Maximum number of pupils per session is 34. Supervising adults are free of charge.

We may be able to offer the use of a room for 30 minutes for lunch. There is a £10 fee for use of a lunchroom. Please request this on enquiry.

There is a single £5 invoice raising fee should you need an invoice. Should you wish to make multiple trips in a single booking, we will only apply this fee to the first session to cover the whole series of visits. We offer different payment methods such as card or cheque in the shop on the day.

## How to book

Email the Museum: [museum@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:museum@oxford.gov.uk)

Call the Museum: 01865 252334

Finally, you can visit our website for more information: <https://museumofoxford.org/>