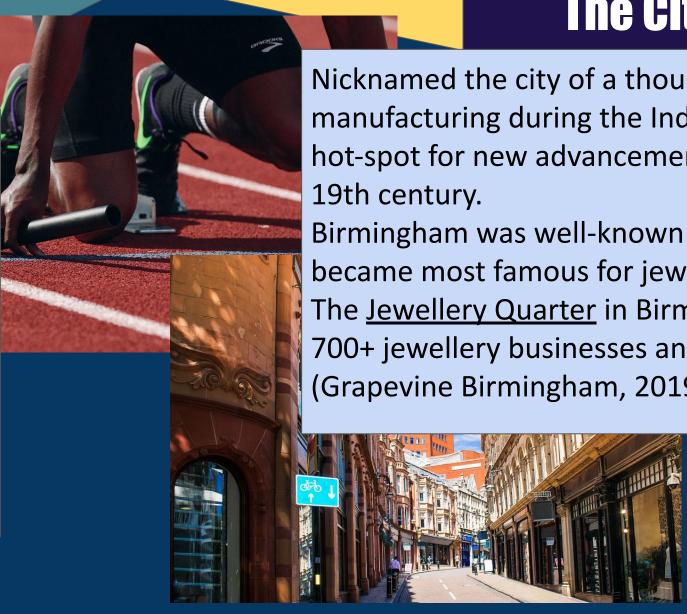
What are the Commonwealth Games?

The Commonwealth games is a sporting competition between athletes from nations in the Commonwealth.

The Birmingham 2022 event will be the third time the Commonwealth games are held in England, and the first time they are held in the West Midlands.

The aim of the competition is to celebrate the commonwealth and bring people together through sport to celebrate values such as humanity, equality and friendship.

Birmingham has long been a centre for <u>diversity</u> and <u>celebrating</u> different cultures making it a perfect place to hold the games and celebrate the values it promotes.



The Venice of the North

Birmingham has been called the Venice of the North in recognition of its many canals.

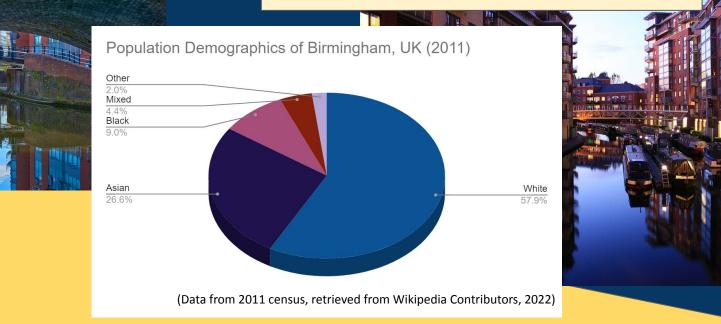
In fact, Birmingham has 35 canal miles in comparison to Venice's 26. (Homes, 2017)

References:

Celebrating Birmingham. Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Diversity

Birmingham is a diverse city and representative of many different cultures and ethnicities.



Cultural Influence

J.R.R Tolkien lived in Birmingham during his youth and his experiences inspired much of his work in Lord of the Rings. For example, the <u>Chamberlain Clock Tower</u> at the University of Birmingham is thought to have inspired him to create the Eye of Sauron. (Warm Welcome, 2020)

The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery possess the largest collection of pre-raphaelite works in the word. Other famous works can be found across the city. For example, stain-glass windows created by Burne-Jones can be seen in the <u>St Philips Cathedral</u> (Business Live, 2013)

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The City of a Thousand Trades

Nicknamed the city of a thousand trades due to its history of manufacturing during the Industrial Revolution, Birmingham was a hot-spot for new advancements in technology and industry during the

Birmingham was well-known for producing many items however it soon became most famous for jewellery-making.

The <u>Jewellery Quarter</u> in Birmingham is still active today It is home to 700+ jewellery businesses and produces 40% of all the UK's jewellery. (Grapevine Birmingham, 2019)

Looking Ahead

As England's fastest growing city, there are many exciting new developments being built in 2022. Here are just a few: Life Sciences Campus at the **University of Birmingham:** additional 657 sq feet of labs, offices, etc + estimated 10,000 new jobs Curzon Street Station: will reduce travel time from London to Birmingham to only 49 minutes, providing many new job opportunities (New Developments in Birmingham 2022, 2021)



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