



History Knowledge Organiser

Year 6

Peterloo (16th August 1819)



The rich and the poor

- Fewer than 2% of the population had the vote (just the rich people who owned land).
- Hunger was rife with the disastrous Corn Laws, making bread unaffordable.
- Unemployment was high.
- Their wages had been drastically reduced (halved since 1815).
- Poor people had no voice. There was no MP to represent Manchester so they had no way to change things.

Key Concepts

Rules & laws

Society - ranking



Henry Hunt (1773 – 1835)



- Born in Upavon, Wiltshire,
- British radical speaker (nick named Orator which means a skilled public speaker)
- He had strong views on equality
- Henry was invited by the Patriotic Union Society to speak at the rally in Manchester which turned into the Peterloo massacre.

What happened?

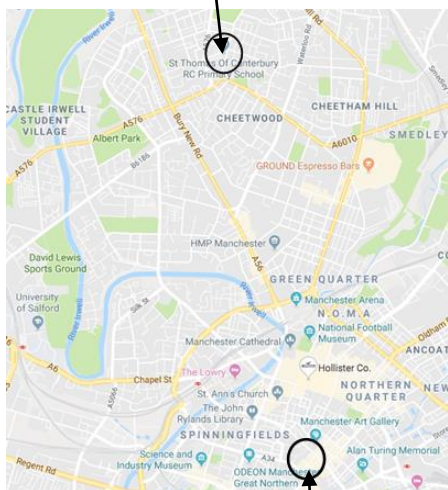
Men, women and children walked from towns and villages, in and around Greater Manchester. Some walking nearly 30 miles. Many had come especially to see the famous Henry Hunt speak on the need of electoral reform. Around 60,000 people attended the meeting (that was half the population of Greater Manchester).

Their peaceful protest turned bloody when Manchester magistrates ordered a private military force, paid for by rich locals, to storm the crowd with sabres. An estimated 18 people died and more than 650 were injured in the chaos.

Key Vocabulary

<u>Spelling</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Massacre	A brutal slaughter of many people.
Parliament	A law-making group in the government of Great Britain.
Corn Laws	British laws regarding taxes on corn. They protected British land owners.
Sabre	A type of sword with a curved blade.
Radical	A person who supports extreme social and political changes.

St Thomas of Canterbury



Peter's Fields

The Impact of Peterloo

- In 1832, more male householders were given the vote (approx. 4% of adults).
- In towns, most men could vote from 1867 (14% of adults).
- This then extended to most men in the countryside (about 30% of adults now).
- It wasn't until 1918 that working men and women got the right to vote.
- 1928 almost all adult could vote.

