

WARM UP

1 Have you heard of the cities of Bristol and Leeds? Do you know where they are located?

INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRES IN THE UK

Over the last fifty years, the UK's manufacturing and industrial sectors have undergone massive changes and the country's economy has become reliant on new technologies and emerging industries. Biotechnology, regenerative medicine, plastic electronics, photonics and advanced composites are examples of the areas which are predicted to expand. The hubs of these new industries are cities such as Newcastle (scientific research), Bristol (advanced composites), Leeds (financial services), Cambridge (plastic electronics and regenerative healthcare) and Glasgow (renewable energy).

BRISTOL

Located in the south west of England on the River Avon, Bristol has a very long history of import and export thanks to its large port and strategic position for trade across the Atlantic. The port is still an important part of the city's trade and industry, together with the aerospace, defence and high-tech sectors. BAE Systems, Airbus and Rolls-Royce are all based in the area, and Hewlett Packard has its national research laboratories there too. Many new companies have been set up and it is predicted to become a centre for advanced manufacturing. In 2011 there were 42.2 business start-ups per 10,000 population.

Bristol has a population of 691,500 (2011 figure) making it the largest city in the south west of the country. It is a popular tourist destination with attractions like the restored ocean liner SS Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, both designed by the Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who was born in Bristol. On a more modern note, the *Wallace and Gromit* animated films were made by Bristol-based Aardman Animations.

LEEDS

When thinking about banking and financial services in the UK, most people automatically imagine the City of London. While London is the most important centre, Leeds (population 751,500 in 2011) has developed a very strong legal and financial services sector and is now considered the second most important financial centre in the country. It is also a place for new businesses and entrepreneurs, with 38.8 business start-ups per 10,000 population in 2011.

Located in the North of England, Leeds is well-connected by road and rail links and is easily accessible from all parts of the country: London is about 3 hours by car and just over 2 hours by train. The city has a rich industrial past, with the country's biggest and most important textile mills in the 18th and 19th centuries. The city centre is full of Victorian architecture to visit, such as the Town Hall and the Victoria Quarter with its restored arcades covered in wonderful marble and mosaics, but it also offers modern shopping, theatres, sports facilities and a vibrant nightlife.

READING COMPREHENSION

2 Read the text and tick which city/cities:

- 1 is located on a river
- 2 is in the north of England
- 3 has the largest population (2011 figures)
- 4 had the most start-ups in 2011
- 5 is the location of aerospace companies
- 6 is an important financial centre
- 7 has links to the Victorian Age

	Bristol	Leeds
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTERNET RESEARCH/SPEAKING

3 Find out about one of the cities mentioned in the introduction and prepare a short oral presentation. Include details about:

- the location and geographical features;
- industry and employment;
- local landmarks and tourist attractions;
- famous residents.