

The Great Sheffield Flood 11 March 1864

- During the Victorian era, there was a great change in the way people worked and lived.
- Before this, most people lived in the countryside and lived off the land. Then came new discoveries and different ways of manufacturing. Over a hundred years, the number of people living in towns changed from just 15% to 85%.
- These towns and cities grew fast and water was needed to serve both the population as well as the new factories that used water in the process of making the steel.
- A new dam was needed near Sheffield to meet the needs of a growing population. **John Towlerton Leather** designed the dam and oversaw its construction.
- **John Gunson** was the engineer who supervised the building of the dam. It took 5 years.

- 11th March 1864 everyone carried on as normal. The weather was terrible. Storms brewed and the rains came. **William Horsefield** noticed a crack in the dam around 5.30pm.
- Before 7pm, he alerted **Stephenson Fountain**, the son of one of the contractors at the dam, who had to get a message to John Gunson. He had to ride 8 miles. He was cold, wet and exhausted; a most uncomfortable feeling.
- About 7.30ish, the horse's saddle girth broke. Stephenson took the horse to the Barrel Inn, where he knew **John Ibbotson** could mend it. Rumours then started to spread...
- By 8.30 on the evening of that fateful day, **John Gunson** had received the news and set off from his house at 14 Division Street.
- He greeted **David Craven**, one of his workers, and together they climbed into the gig. They drove out to Dale Dyke Dam. Would they get there in time?
- They arrived to find contractors searching for solutions. Struggling, they tried to open the valves to relieve the pressure but to no avail.
- **John Gunson** sweated. Maybe dynamite would work. No use. It wouldn't light. It was too wet.
- At around midnight, the dam burst leashing millions of gallons of water passing through Loxley, Malin Bridge, Hillsborough, Neepsend, Kelham Island and the Wicker. Destruction was inevitable; death inevitable! Over 240 people were killed on that dreadful night.



Task

Create a timeline of the events that occurred on 11th March 1864. Include the key times and people involved.

Success Criteria:

- Events written in chronological order
- Clear explanation of each event

Presentation:

Be as creative as you like.

- Bullet point the main events and illustrate.
- Create a video talking through the events.
- Use Lego/playmobil figures and create an animation

Challenge

Could you include an ISPACE opener?

I – ing

S – simile

P – preposition

A – adverb

E – ed

Strugg^ling, they tried to open the valves to relieve the pressure.