

Here is a picture of the famous iron bridge in Shropshire, a small town in Central England.



Over 200 years ago, there was no bridge. The river could be dangerous to cross by boat. Local businessmen decided to build a bridge. Nearby, in the village of Coalbrookdale, Abraham Darby had his ironworks. **Darby's workmen designed and built the bridge, which was opened to traffic in 1781.** The bridge, the first of its kind, attracted visitors from all over the world. It

brought Darby a lot of business and he built and sold more bridges, as well as other iron goods. Then new and bigger coalfields in Yorkshire and cheap iron brought to Britain from overseas caused the iron industry of Shropshire to decline.

**iron:** Eisen  
**design:** zeichnen, planen  
**attract:** anziehen  
**goods:** Waren, Güter  
**coal:** Kohle  
**cause:** bewirken  
**decline:** niedergehen  
**last:** dauern  
**toll:** Zoll f. Strassen, Brücken od. Tunnels

**The iron bridge lasted for a long time and all traffic passing over it had to pay tolls.** In 1931 it was closed to vehicles, although people were (and are) still allowed to walk over. Repair work began, and the famous iron bridge, now over 200 years old, was repaired and restored and attracts thousands of visitors.

### Questions:

1. What is the famous bridge made of? .....
2. Is Shropshire in South England? .....
3. When was the first iron bridge built? .....
4. Why do tourists go to Shropshire? .....
5. Why did the iron industry in Shropshire decline? .....
6. Is the iron bridge still open to the public? .....
7. Is it also open to cars and coaches? .....

### Translate:

1. Der Fluss konnte gefährlich sein. .... (can – could - -)
2. Sie beschlossen, eine Brücke zu bauen. .... (decide = regelmäßig)
3. Die Brücke wurde 1781 dem Verkehr geöffnet ..... (open = regelmäßig)
4. Er verkaufte viele Brücken ..... (sell – sold – sold)
5. Der Verkehr musste (=hatte zu) Zölle bezahlen. .... (have – had – had)
6. Die Brücke wurde (=war) repariert. .... (be – was – been)