1. **Read All About It**
   Birmingham's Central Library is the city's busiest building, Europe's largest public library and lends 8 million books each year.

2. **Studies**
   There are over 450 schools in the City and a total of 5 universities. These include, University College Birmingham, Birmingham University, and Birmingham City University.

3. **Czech Approval**
   Antonin Dvorak, Czech composer (1841-1904) said: "I'm here in this immense industrial city where they make excellent knives, scissors, springs, files and goodness knows what else, and, besides these, music too. And how well! It's terrifying how much the people here manage to achieve."

4. **Banking**
   Two of Britain's big four banks were founded in Birmingham - Lloyds (1765) and Midland (1836).

5. **Cinema**
   The first of the famous Odeon chain of cinemas first opened in Perry Barr, Birmingham in 1930.
TEN THINGS ABOUT BIRMINGHAM

Cultu re

Music
Birmingham is home to many past and present rock bands including Ocean Colour Scene, Duran Duran, ELO, Dodgy, UB40 and Black Sabbath.

Prime Ministers
Three British prime ministers attended Mason College, forerunner of the University of Birmingham.

Cotton Wool
Joseph Sampson Gamgee (1828-80), a Birmingham doctor, invented the surgical dressing known as cotton wool.

Inventions
Celluloid was invented in Birmingham in 1862, by Alexander Parkes; the first plastic was known as Parkensine.

Education
State education was pioneered in Birmingham in the 1850's.