

Alder Coppice Primary School — Knowledge Organiser

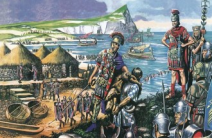






Subject: History

Year: 2

Unit 3: Why are our canals important to us?

Links to: Year 1 & 2 Victorians—Toys and Schools

KEY DATES:

55BC - 410AD	Up to late 1760	1759 - 1761	1780 -1800s	1779 - 1792	1840 -1966	Mid 1960s
Roman Britain First canals in Britain built by the Romans.	All Travel in England by horse and cart or by boat on rivers	Building of the Bridgewater canal - opened on 17 July 1761	'Canal mania'- the rapid rate of expansion of the canal network	The Dudley canal connected to the Stourbridge Canal, opened in 1779, this was connected through the Dudley Tunnel to the Birmingham Canal system in 1792	Rise of the steam trains drew passengers and haulage away from the canals	Restoration work began on the Dudley and Stourbridge canal network
						

What I should know by the end of the Unit:

- Why our local area has lots of historical relevance to the Victorian Period and transport links
- What a canal is – why they were needed during Victorian Times in the Black Country
- Who built them and some of the problems to solve
- What life was like on the narrowboats
- About a famous canal engineer
- How canals are used today in our local area

KEY PEOPLE:



Duke of Bridgewater
Francis Egerton
1736 - 1803

The Duke of Bridgewater's canal, designed by James Brindley, was so successful, it ensured many canals followed which linked the great ports to the industrial areas of Britain.

Key Vocabulary:

Navvies	workers who built the canals
Industry	economic activity concerned with producing goods in factories
Narrowboat	long thin boats built to travel on narrow canals
Transport	take or carry goods from one place to another
Engineer	a person who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or structures
Cargo	goods carried on a boat or vehicle



James Brindley 1716 - 1772
Engineer

James' great idea was to plan a network of canals, known as **The Grand Cross**, to connect the four main rivers of England (the Mersey, Trent, Severn and Thames) to the important ports of Bristol, Manchester, Hull and London.

Today, he is remembered as a man who changed the way goods were transported and helped Britain to become a great industrial country.



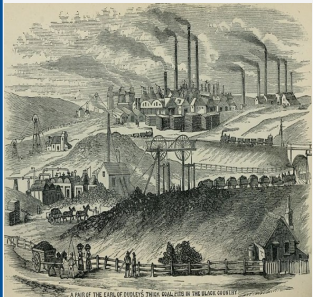
KEY INFORMATION:



Navvies building canals

In the 1700s, the **Industrial Revolution** brought big changes to Britain.

People began to use more coal but the terrible state of the roads made it difficult to transport the coal. This is when people began to build artificial waterways called *canals*—as it was easier to transport cargo. Navvies, engineers, blacksmiths and bricklayers helped build our canals.



The Black Country - was named because of all the smoke created by the coal mines in our area a long time ago. Canals helped us transport our coal quickly.

Our canals became busy places with warehouses, factories and houses along their banks.

Then the railways came along. They were a faster way of moving goods around and the waterways went into decline. After World War II, canals began to be restored once again.



An aqueduct was built to allow canal boats to go across a river.

The **Anderton boat lift** allowed boats to be lifted up from a canal to join a river



Dudley Locks
A canal lock allows canal boats to be raised from one level to another – so they can travel up and down hills. A bit like a stair case for boats!



TUNNELS - built through the land
Boaters had to 'leg' through most tunnels using their feet!

This was because many narrow tunnels had no towpath running through them – a towpath was a path at the side of the canal where horses would pull the boat along the canal.

Life on a narrowboat in the past



Space was limited on board - Families were often large and overcrowding on boats was considered a problem.

There had to be plenty of room for cargo and this would take up a lot of space!

There was no running water - water was collected from taps alongside the canal.

There were no toilets - chamber pots were used and emptied into the canal.



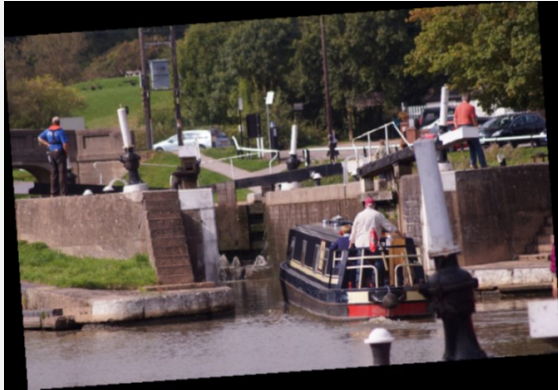
Children were often born on boats and would sit on the roof in fine weather.

Many people couldn't swim, so boats were a dangerous place to live!

Boat children didn't have much time to play, as from around **5 years old** they began helping to steer the boat. Cowboys and Indians was a popular game, possibly because of the horses! They were leading the horse by about **7 years old**, and **working locks by age 12** was not uncommon.

Going to school was difficult for children living on narrowboats because they were always on the move. Most children hardly went to school at all, only for about three weeks a year or for half a day or up to a week, depending how long their boats were tied up!

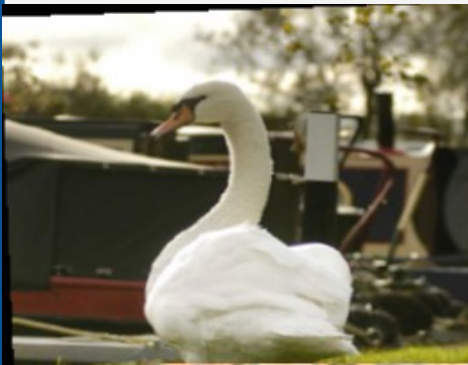
Life on the Canals Today



Narrowboat
holidays



Cycling



Wildlife



Walking

Changes over time - local canals



Dudley Canal in
the past



Dudley Canal
Now

