

GRAND ♦ JUNCTION

AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
PADDINGTON

SCHOOLS' WORKSHOPS

Resource Pack

Our Natural World: Local Life

Chapter 1 | Grand Union Canal

    grandjunctionw2
www.grandjunction.org.uk

Contents

Canal Transport, Soundscapes & Timelines	1
Name your boat template	2
Word Searches	3-4
Sea Shanties	5
Canal Rap Recap	6-7
Performing Arts Activities	8



Canal Transport

- Tape a rectangle onto the floor. Make it roughly the size of a narrow boat. Remember **narrow boats** are less than 7 ft wide, that's 213 cm.

Imagine if you had furniture inside your boat. Try and move around, act out making a cup of tea. Does it feel crowded? Would you like living on a narrow boat?

- Design your **boat an emblem** like the rose and crown you saw in the video. You can use the **template** in this activity guide. What would your boat be called?
- How many **other types of transport** can you make using your rectangle silhouettes?

How To

Here is a reminder of what shapes you need to make your different types of canal transport.

Narrow Boat

x 1

x 1

Packet Boat

x 2

x 1

Horse

x 3

Canal Soundscape

Can you make a canal soundscape? What sounds do you hear along the canal?

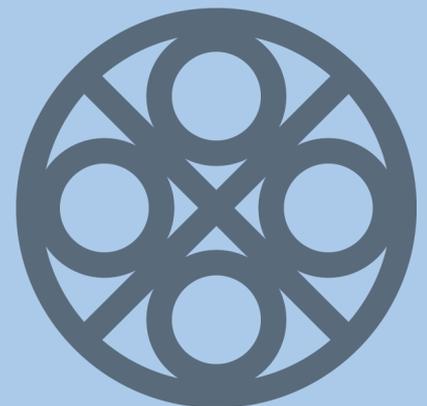
Some examples are:
Water flowing, ducks quacking, bike bells, boats.

Can you create two soundscapes from the past & present? What sounds would be the same and what sounds would be different?

Listen to another group's soundscape with your eyes closed. How many sounds can you identify?

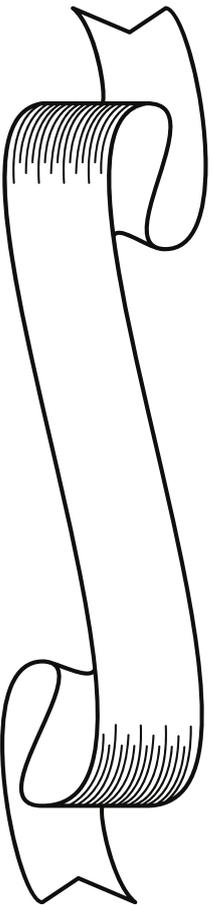
Timeline

- Make your own timeline using the wiggly shape of **Grand Union** canal.
- Add **historical facts** to your timeline.
- Add your cut out shapes of transport to your timeline



Template

- Cut out this circle to make a window.
- Add your boat's name and an emblem like the rose & crown.
- What will your emblem tell us about who you are and what you like to do?



Word search

Can you find these words in the word search:

Narrow Boat

Narrow boats are barges less than 7 ft wide. They became homes for families as more people began working on the canal.

Barge

A barge is a boat that often transported heavy goods like: bricks, coal and wood.

Lock

A lock is a way of changing water levels so boats can move through over hills.

Water Bus

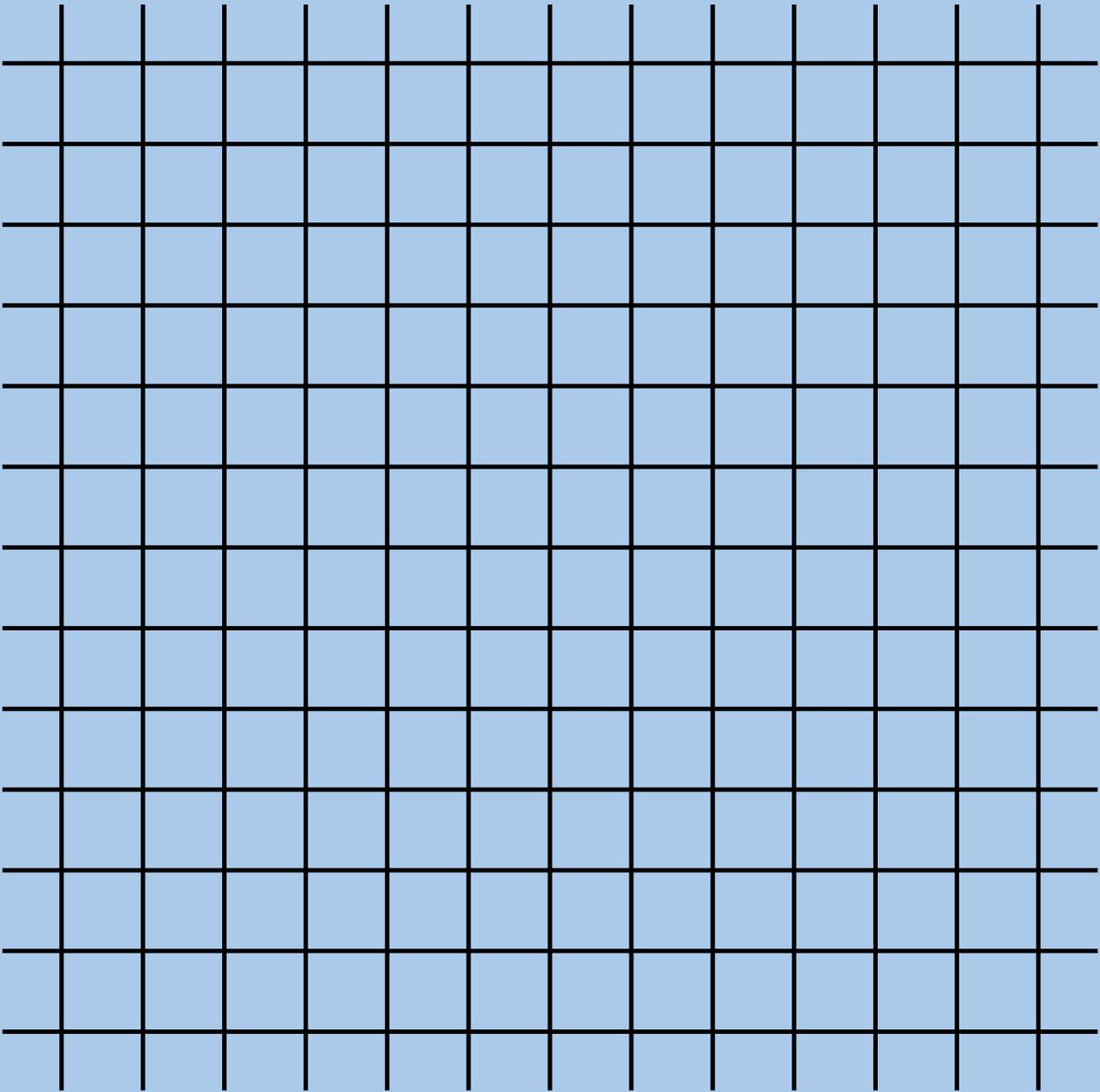
Water buses were boats used to take people up and down the canal, like a bus on water.

Paddington Packet Boat

This water bus was pulled by 4 horses. The boat workers were known for their blue uniforms with yellow capes and yellow buttons.



Can you make your own word search, using words about your local area and its history?



Hidden Words:



Sea Shanties



A Sea shanty is a simple song sung by sailors and people making boats. Singing together helped them to keep in time with each other when they were performing manual labour, for example lifting heavy boats. The songs were inspired by black folk music and traditional working songs. **Can you create your own verses?**

Some examples: A nice hot drink wouldn't do us any harm/ A night on dry land wouldn't do us any harm.

Roll the Old Chariots Along:

Oh, A tasty plate of food
Wouldn't do us any harm
Oh, A tasty plate of food
Wouldn't do us any harm
Oh, A tasty plate of food
Wouldn't do us any harm
And they'll all hang on behind

We'll roll the old chariot's along
We'll roll the old chariot's along
We'll roll the old chariot's along
And we'll all hang on behind

Oh a nice hot bath
wouldn't do us any harm
Oh a nice hot bath
wouldn't do us any harm
Oh a nice hot bath
wouldn't do us any harm
And we'll all hang on behind

We'll roll the old chariot's along
We'll roll the old chariot's along
We'll roll the old chariot's along
And we'll all hang on behind



Canal Rap Recap



Chorus:

Listen close, class, for something factual and funky
Whether you're at the back or sat in the front seat
After this, I promise your knowledge won't be rusty
About the longest canal in the country

Verse 1:

Because of this, its first name's Grand
As it stretches 137 miles across the land
From Paddington to Birmingham, its second name is union
Because that means togetherness and it connects the two of them
Now canal, that's a man made waterway
So boats could transport goods before we caught the train
Now, for many boats, an engine is the norm today
But back in the day, they were pulled by horses' reins
And 4 of them pulled the Paddington Packet Boat
Without them, it wouldn't move, just casually float
Narrowboats are called that 'cause of their size
Up to 70 feet long and 7 feet wide
You'll also find barges on canals, so they're similar
But their purpose differs, so barges tend to be bigger
They're built to carry goods like bricks, wood and coal
While a narrowboat's more of a mobile family home
This wasn't unusual in the 1870s
But before that, please do remember the
G.U. Canal was made as a solution
For moving goods during the Industrial Revolution



Chorus:



It's something factual and funky
Whether you're at the back or sat in the front seat
After this, I promise your knowledge won't be rusty
About the longest canal in the country

Verse 2:

Did I mention that it's a combined canal?
What's that?' you ask – listen on and find out
It means it's many small canals put together
Because of this, it feels like it could go on forever
Each of these small canals are at different levels
So the invention of locks was essential
A lock's a chamber where water can be raised or lowered
So for boats, it's sort of an elevator
With a lever and cogs is how they operate
A windlass turns the spindle if it's the proper shape
To slowly open the top or the bottom gates
And once you've got the right level then you're on your way
If you did the whole canal, you'd see a whopping, great figure
Of 158 along the way!
And as you go, sea shanties are the songs
That you sing, such as 'Roll The Old Chariots Along'

Chorus:

That was something factual and funky
Whether you're at the back or sat in the front seat
Now we're finished, I'm sure your knowledge isn't rusty
About the longest canal in the country



Performing Arts based Activities



Song/Rap:

Can you learn the choruses and write your own verses? What other information do you know about the canal - and don't forget to try and make it rhyme.

The rhyming sequence is

A

A

B

B

This means the first line has to rhyme with the second line and the following two lines have to rhyme too. These are called Rhyming Couplets. Below is an example from the above rap.

*It means it's many small canals put together
Because of this, it feels like it could go on forever*

Drama/Acting:

In small groups of 4 or 5 children create an advert for a narrow boat. Why should people live on these boats?

Some examples;

The freedom it gives you to travel up and down the country

It's cheaper than buying a house

Living in amongst nature

Adverts must include a jingle (short catchy song or rhyme), key information on the canal or narrow boats, a slogan, how they can buy one, how much they are.

Perform your advert back to the class.

Dance/Movement:

Create a dance sequence to perform to the music. Use the music's beat to pass heavy materials to each other, like the canal workers used to do.

E.g. under movements, over movements, pulling the rope movements.

Can the class do it in unison?

You could try doing the dance sequence and singing Roll the Old Chariot's along at the same time.

GRAND ♦ JUNCTION

AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
PADDINGTON

WE HOPE TO SEE
YOU AT
GRAND JUNCTION
SOON

Follow us on social media and
sign up to our newsletter to keep
up to date about our events

    grandjunctionw2
www.grandjunction.org.uk