



When the first narrow boats travelled the canals, men worked on the boats while their wives and children lived in houses. There were no pictures on the boats.

Later, when the railways began, trains took much of the carrying trade away from the boats. The boat owners could not charge so much to carry things, and could not pay their men so much money. The boat men and their families lost money, and could not afford to pay rent on their houses, so they all moved and lived on the boats full time instead. When the wives moved onto the boats, they wanted to make them look beautiful, and the paintings began.

Sometimes they painted the picture themselves, or paid someone at the boat yard to paint it for them. Very few painters were artists they were mostly just clever boat builders!

No-one really knows why they chose flowers & castles to paint.



Find the case on the ground floor where the painted objects are kept. How many different things can you see in there? Make a list of them below.

1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

Choose the one that you like best, and look carefully at it. What is in the painting? In your sketchbook, or in the box below, make a copy of the picture. (If it is too big or hard to draw all of it, then choose a part one flower or castle to do.)



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KS2 Activities

Roses and Castles



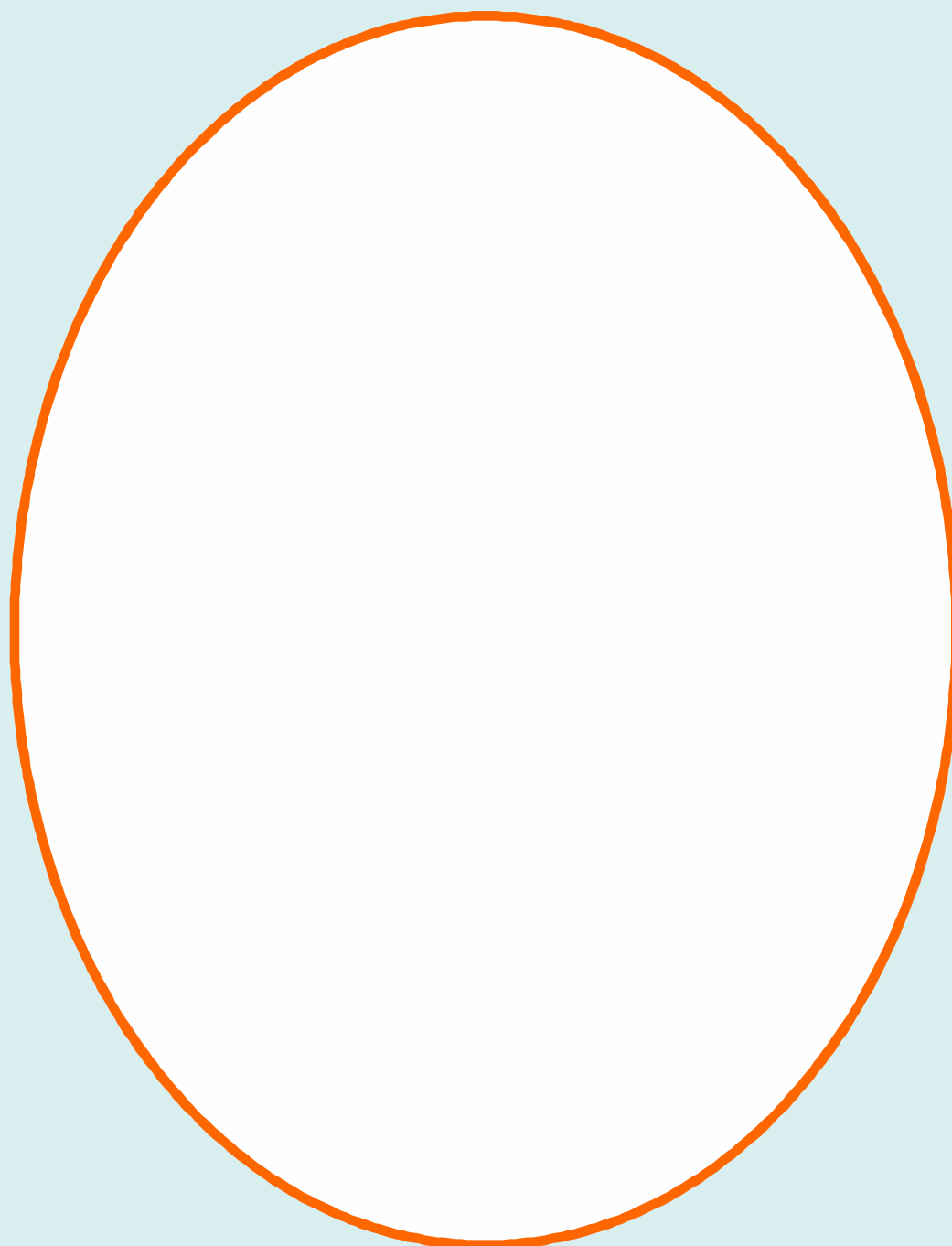
If you can, colour your drawing with paint or crayon. Make the colours the same as the real picture. If you have no paint or pencils, write on your drawing to remind you what colours you saw.

Ks1 Activities

Canal Families



Here is an oval shape, ready to be painted on a door, or a tall jug. Draw your own castle or mountain scene to go inside. How will you decorate the edge with flowers or a repeating pattern?



Roses and Castles



Canal boats had names, which were painted on their long sides. Sometimes, the name of the owner was written, too. The painters used big capital letters, like these:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

This is your canal boat! Think of a name for her, and write it very carefully in fat capitals on the top half of the boat, beside the window. If you find the letters hard, try tracing them from the alphabet. Make sure the name fits! Will you write it in a curved or straight line?

