



KS3 Lesson Plan Changing Land Use at Battlebridge

Introduction

This lesson looks at the history of the Battlebridge Basin and its surroundings over the past 200 years. It traces the changes patterns of land use in the area, from the time when Battlebridge was a village in open countryside, through the construction of the canal and period of rapid urbanisation to the regeneration of the 21st century.

Learning objectives.

- To understand the reasons that the Regent's Canal was built, and the function of Battlebridge Basin as a place of transshipment and storage.
- To understand the function of the warehouses along the wharves.
- To explore the complete changes of land use in the area over the past 300 years.

National curriculum

KS3 History: Historical enquiry 4 Local, British, European & world history 7, Britain 1750-1900 10
KS3 Geography Geographical Enquiry & Skills 1d, 2c & d, Breadth of Study 6h

Differentiation

- All children will learn that the canal was used to transport commercial cargo
- Most children will be able to name some of the cargoes carried, explain how they were used, and explain what the function of the Basin was.
- Some children will understand the changing nature of land use in the area over the past 300 years.

Resources

- Enough copies of the map and photo pages for the students to share one set between two.
- Notebooks
- Pencils

Key vocabulary

- Cargo
- Wharf
- Regeneration
- Warehouse
- Transshipment
- Land Use
- Commercial
- Basin

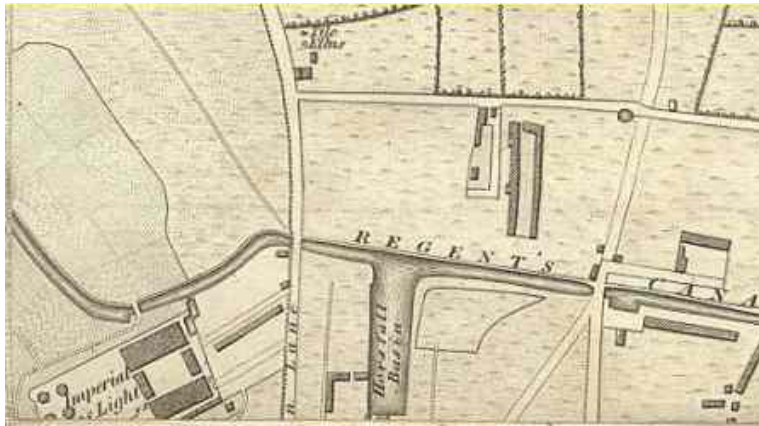


Lesson Plan

- 1) If possible, arrange for the class to visit the London Canal Museum, and the Regent's Canal. Ensure that you make a preliminary visit, arrange enough adult supervision, and have completed all necessary risk assessments (help available on LCM site).
- 2) Discuss the meaning of the word 'cargo'. Get students to look carefully at the boats they can see either on the real canal or in pictures if a visit is not possible. How many of them have a cargo, and how many are carrying only people? Explain how canals used to be used for commercial purposes discuss reasons why (e.g. very poor road quality etc)
- 3) Explain when and why the Regent's Canal was built, the importance of carrying heavy goods in bulk, further into London and the rest of the country than was possible from ocean-going ships tied up on the Thames, and why basins and wharves were needed along its length for the purposes of transshipment and storage.
- 4) Ask students to look at Map A. This shows the area just after the canal was built. Emphasise that the Regent's Canal was right at the edge of London if possible, look at <http://users.bathspa.ac.uk/greenwood/lhistory.html>, with the students, which has a digitised version of the whole 1823 map of London, available in sections. This will show even more clearly how small London was at that time. Get them to answer the questions, verbally or in writing.
- 5) Discuss the effect of the railways on the canal system. Ask children to look at Map B, drawn in 1891. Emphasise the spread of London, and how the basin, which was on the northern edge of London, is now surrounded by buildings. Discuss the nature of the businesses built around the basin, and get the students to answer the questions, verbally or in writing. (In relation to the last question, about the nature of the area, it may be useful to look at the excellent digitised version of Charles Booth's 1899 map of London wealth and poverty on www.booth.lse.ac.uk)
- 6) If you are using this lesson plan during a visit to the museum, take the students out to look at the basin from the wharf side. If not, get them to look carefully at Photo C. Discuss the links between the end of commercial traffic on the canal and the closure of the warehouses. How much do they think that the current regeneration of the area is due to the rise of leisure boating, and how much due to other factors such as the general regeneration of King's Cross, or the building of the high speed international rail link to St Pancras?
- 7) Finally discuss how they think the area will develop in the next fifty years. Will the main thrust of development be industrial, residential, or commercial? Do current developments give you any clue?

KS3 Lesson Plan

Land Use Handout sheet 1



Here is part of a map of London, made in 1823. Regent's Canal has just been built around the northern edge of London. The centre of London is to the south of this map.

Battlebridge Basin is just below the 'E' and 'G' of the words 'Regent's Canal'.

1. What was the name of the Battlebridge Basin in 1823?
2. The dark rectangles are buildings. How many buildings can you see near the Basin in 1823?
3. There are some buildings at the east side of the map. What can you see north of the Canal?



This is a photo of Battlebridge Basin taken from a high building at the southern end of the Basin in the last year or two. The Basin is still surrounded by buildings, but none of them serve the same purpose as in 1891.

1. The Regent's Canal ceased to be used for much commercial boat traffic in the 1950s. What do you think happened to the warehouses and other buildings then?
2. The London Canal Museum is in the old ice house, which has been converted. How many other old buildings around the Basin do you think have been converted from their previous use?
3. How many buildings around the Basin do you think were built in the 20th century?
4. The buildings in this photo are not used as warehouses any more. What do you think they are now?
5. Why do you think people want to live and work around the basin now?
6. How do you think the area will change in the next hundred years?