Activity Sheet

London Canal Museum in 12 Objects

1. Water Can (Buckby Can)

This can was used for carrying fresh water on boats many years ago. Here are some questions for you to think about – and some ideas about where you could find out more!

Why would people working on boats need to carry their fresh water in cans like this?

What is this type of decoration called?

Why were they sometimes called Buckby Cans?

https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-history
https://www.waterways.org.uk/blog/historic_narrow_boat_features number 10

Activities: Download the pack about canal art from
https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/resources?keyword=&formats[]=Brownies,%20Cubs%20and%20Scouts and have a go at decorating your boat cabin.

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2. Horse Singeing Lamp

This lamp was used to singe off horses' hair if it got too long or dirty. But what does 'singe' mean? Look it up!

Horses had an important job on the canals. See if you can find out why by looking here: https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-history/horseboating and here: https://canalmuseum.org.uk/learning/learners/18th-century-goods-transport/

Bonus question: Horses couldn't go through canal tunnels – they did not have paths. Before engines, how do you think the boats managed to travel through the tunnels? Do you have any idea what the horses might have done?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legging_(canals)

Activity: find some wool or string, make a 'tail' and have a go at plaiting – horses' tails were plaited to keep them neat. Look on YouTube for plaiting ideas.

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3. Model Ice Delivery Cart

Ice delivery cart? Why does a canal museum have a model of an ice delivery cart? Go to the front page of our website (canalmuseum.org.uk) and you might be able to work out why!

But why did ice need to be delivered to houses, restaurants, shops and hotels? Think back 150 years and try to come up with an answer. Your clue is: **food.**

You can have fun with ice. Why not try painting with ice cubes? Freeze paint in ice cube trays with lolly sticks to hold on to. Watch out, though – the cubes melt quite quickly! Or if you have some powder paint, sprinkle it onto a piece of paper on a deep tray then put a melting ice cube on top. Tip the tray backwards and forwards and create a pattern with the ice cube. Tip off the spare powder when it is dry.

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4. Stove

This is a picture of the stove from our narrowboat. Look carefully and you will see what fuel was used to heat it up.

The stove was next to the back door of the cabin, right at the back of the boat. This meant that it kept the person steering warm – well, below the waist, anyway - and they could quickly make a cup of tea or stir the dinner while they worked. Some ingredients were bought at shops near the canal and others, like apples, were collected on the way.

Activity: You could heat things up in pans on the top of the stove or bake or roast in the oven. Why don't you have a go at baking an apple pie or cake?

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5. Measham Ware Teapot

This fancy teapot is about 35cm tall and looks *amazing!* It was made near Measham in the middle of England, right near the Ashby Canal which went to Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

It is often called bargeware – a barge is a wide boat for carrying cargoes. Boaters would order a pot on their way up the canal and pick it up on the way back, often with a special message to someone on the white bit on the front, to give as a special present.

Would you put a pot like this on a boat? And what message would you have on it?

Activity: draw the outline of a teapot and decorate it for a special occasion – it could be a design for a wedding or birthday present, like it would have been 140 years ago.

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6. Mrs Agnes Marshall's Patent Ice Cream Machine

This expensive machine meant that people who could afford it could have ice cream at home. It uses ice and salt (in the outer wooden bowl) to freeze the ice cream ingredients (in the inner metal bowl). Turning the handle made sure that the ice cream was smooth and not just a lump of frozen cream. Mrs Marshall wrote recipes for many flavours of frozen ices, including spinach!

Become a science investigator and find out why:

- The outer bowl is wooden and the inner bowl is metal
- Salt is added to the ice

Use these websites to help: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4339j6/articles/zx8hhv4 and http://www.espsciencetime.org/SaltandIce.aspx

Activity: make your own ice cream in plastic bags – find out how here https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/instant-vanilla-ice-cream **.**

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7. Licking Glasses for Penny Licks

These Victorian licking glasses are very thick and you cannot fit much ice cream in them. The ice cream sellers, or Hokey Pokey men, put ice cream in the top and people licked it out. The glasses were then rinsed in a bucket of water and the next ice cream was put in. People paid a penny for their 'lick'.

Later on, the licking dishes were banned and cornets or cones were invented. Can you work out why?

Why were ice cream sellers called Hokey Pokey men? Well, probably because most of them were Italian and called out either "O che poco!" ("Oh how little!") or "Ecco un poco!" ("Look, something little!"), talking about how cheap their ice cream was.

Activity: design a cone full of ice cream. What flavours will you have? Will you have sauce or sprinkles? Make it super yummy!

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8. Ice Cream Delivery Tricycle

Firstly, why is this called a tricycle, not a bicycle (clue: think about a triangle!)?

Ice cream was sometimes shaped into blocks. The box on the front of this tricycle would have ice in the bottom with blocks of ice cream sitting on top. The seller would have rectangular wafers and make sandwiches – wafer, ice cream, wafer. There are lids to lift on the top of the ice box (hidden behind the boards with writing on them). This is how they would get the ice cream in and out. Inside each lid it says "Don't forget the wafers". It would get a bit messy trying to eat ice cream without them!

Activity: make an ice cream sandwich. If you haven't got wafers, try 2 biscuits. You could get really inventive here with different sorts of biscuits, different flavours of ice cream, chocolate spread as butter... Remember, this is treat food, not for every day!

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9. Bolinder Boat Engine

This engine is on display at the Canal Museum and there is also a sound recording of it. Watch the video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXxM6p6o4mI to hear what it sounds like, as well as a song about having a Bolinder engine in your narrowboat.

This engine is a semi-diesel. This means that instead of a spark making the diesel burn to run the engine, a 'hot bulb' is warmed up to light the diesel fuel.

Steam and then diesel engines changed how cargoes were moved by canal – boats were able to be moved more easily and a boat with an engine could pull another boat without one (the butty – which means 'friend' or 'mate'). This meant that the same number of people could move twice as much stuff as instead of leading the horse, someone could steer the butty.

Activity: people who like engines record the sounds when they are out and about. This is called 'field recording'. Take a sound recorder with you on a walk and make a field recording of your local area – a phone will do the job.

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10. Sun Bonnets

This style of bonnet was worn by canal boat women until about 80 years ago. The bonnets have stiff edges that make a sort of peak (like on a cap) over their faces and long flaps that cover their necks. But why were they like this? Can you work it out?

Pictures show ladies wearing the hats tipped forward and with the ribbons undone or tied behind the wearer's head (find one at https://collections.canalrivertrust.org.uk/bw197.4.1.1.34). The ribbons could easily get caught up in machinery, especially at locks; the bonnets were worn like this so that if they did get caught, the bonnet would be pulled off rather than strangling the wearer.

Activity: Clothes that protect you are part of your PPE. Find out what this means, then design your own PPE to protect you from wind, sun and rain while you steer your narrowboat.

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11. Horse Medicine

In the past, horses were really important for transport. With no engines to power vehicles, land and canal transport depended on them.

If you were relying on a horse for your job, you would want to keep it as fit as possible. The article that you find here http://www.canaljunction.com/craft/horsedrawn1.htm explains how canal horses were looked after.

The Canal Museum's building was used as a stable and cart store. The carts stayed downstairs and the horses had to head upstairs for their rest. Horses cannot climb stairs, so how do you think they got there? Look here when you have had a guess https://canalmuseum.org.uk/ice/ice-house.htm

Activity: Horses were tied up to rings in their stables. Look at this website and learn how to tie up your horse
https://www.wikihow.com/Tie-up-a-Horse

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12. Ice Dogs

Have you ever seen anything like this before? It was used for lifting ice blocks. The bar you can see at the top was connected to a crane that could swing round and lift and lower the ice into ships or narrowboats on canals. There were some of these cranes fitted in the Canal Museum's building to lower the ice into our under-floor ice wells. There were also ice dogs that could be used by hand – they had handles instead of chains.

The ice wells were put underground for a reason – can you work it out? Have a look here to see what the ice wells look like now https://www.canalmuseum.org.uk/ice/icewell-camera.htm

Activity: To see hand-held ice dogs in action, watch the beginning of Frozen. You could always watch the rest, too!