

School Sheet 5

Middlewich Salt Destinations

Main subjects covered: Citizenship, Geography and History.

Note:

Photographic references in the schools folder, Maps.

You will need: A world map, pins and string. Additional website illustrating stage coaches can be found on: www.anvil.clara.net/stage

How Middlewich is connected to other countries through our salt industry, (exports). (Can use the same theme with a range of imported products)

Working on a world map can you tell me where my destination is?

Have images of salt bags with countries written on them, using a pin and some string link Middlewich with its cargo destination. Can the children find the right Country? The class should have a good idea of how far our salt travelled through the resulting network of strings; this can also link in with travel; without planes how did the salt get there? Explore different methods of transport, how many can the children identify and how fast will the delivery be? Older children can plot their own deliveries with their chosen transport, how long will it take to deliver?

The fast, cheap movement of finished goods from factory to customer was just as important in the early days of the Industrial Revolution as it is today.

In 18th Century Britain the movement of goods was never easy. Cart track roads became thick with mud in winter and river transport was governed by the weather and water rights. Therefore any manufactured goods tended to be sold locally. Profits were to be made by seeking out new markets, but the risks involved could be horrendous. By 1754 London and Manchester were in regular contact by coach, therefore trade increased. One regular route was from Liverpool to Northwich, Middlewich, Sandbach and Newcastle. The coach ran three times a week starting at 8am and passengers would pay 2 ½d per mile approx. Coach names included Red Rover, Magnet and Rocket. These called at The Kings Arms. (Allan Earl, Middlewich 900-1900 pg 129-131, held in the local studies section of Middlewich Library)

Improvement was needed desperately, but came gradually. Rivers were widened and deepened; Middlewich parish used 'clinker' and other by-products of the salt industry to improve the road structure. The first great advance came with the arrival of the canal age, which produced a complex network linking the manufacturing districts with each other and with London and chief ports. Canals were the way to travel for half a century until George Stephenson ushered in the era of railways – suddenly the movement of goods became faster and more efficient. Then, when sail gave way to steam on the high seas, the transport revolution was complete.

Mapping – look at the mapping section and the changing settlement of Middlewich; this may help to understand the transport problems faced. Identify Road structures, canals and Railway – where are the industries and public houses situated?