



School Sheet 3

Design your own boat

Main subjects covered: Citizenship, Art & Design, English, History, and Design & Technology.

Create a company and choose your favourite cargo and destination. Now all you have to do is design your boat and write your company name on it, so people know who you are.

Resources include: Photographs, Booklet & Maps. (School visits to Saturn or Ellesmere Port Boat Museum) Saturn website <http://www.saturnflyboat.org.uk>
Can also arrange a talk / show & tell session.

Look at the pictures and ask observational questions. This will help the children identify what a canal boat is and why it's different. What type of patterns are there? How many different patterns can you see? What colours are used? What words describe the boat? Why do you think they are called narrowboats?

Roses and castles are favourite images, pretty and dream-like places, 'Your home is your castle,' what images would be your favourite things? Why have you chosen those colours and that design? Explore ways of combining and organising the shapes, colours and patterns.

These boats carried all kinds of cargo across the country; in Middlewich large companies operated a water service, similar to how lorries use roads today. Cargo could be anything including Salt, coal, cheese, flint, building materials, flour, Barley etc

A boat is a different type of home:- why are the features different from a house? Look at chimney, stove, panelling, furniture etc
How much room do you have in your boat and what would you put in it? Think about your favourite things from home or items you would like. Draw an interior picture of their cabin and write some words about it – how does it make them feel? What did they like or dislike about their canal home?
Measure out space in the classroom, (10ft by 6ft), can you fit everything in?
Look at the pictures to see how the boat families solved their space problems. The boat is a functional space, how different are they to the children's ideas?)

Investigating materials – good for a visit to a canal boat – Painting on wood, wood effects, painting on tin or ceramic plates, what kind of patterns and pictures are represented? Explore rope work, plates woven with ribbon, rag rugs – weaving materials onto Hessian backing, knitting, crochet and lacework – what are the differences between them? How are they created? Discuss why these methods were used on a boat, how do textiles change the cabin interior?
Can make this into a 'design and make' project for older children to actually do a model of their boat.