

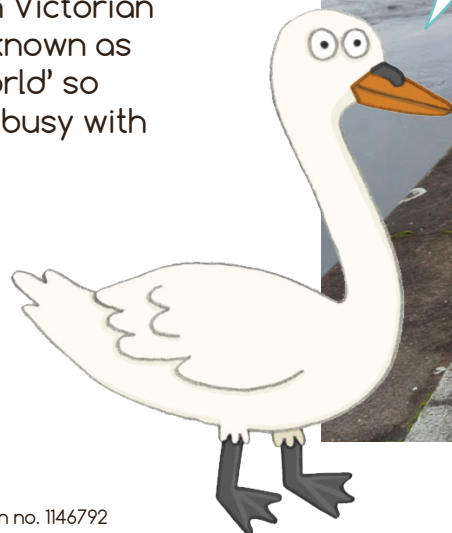
Birmingham's Canals

Activity Pack: PUPILS

These notes and activities will help you to complete two Challenges linked to your local canals in and around Birmingham. To help you further read the BCN Fact File first.

About Birmingham's Canals

Birmingham's network of canals are like Spaghetti Junction on the motorway. It's a major junction where different canals meet and cross. The canals were built about 250 years ago to transport goods to and from factories. In Victorian times, Birmingham was known as the 'workshop of the world' so the canals were always busy with boats and people.



The canals were the motorways of their day

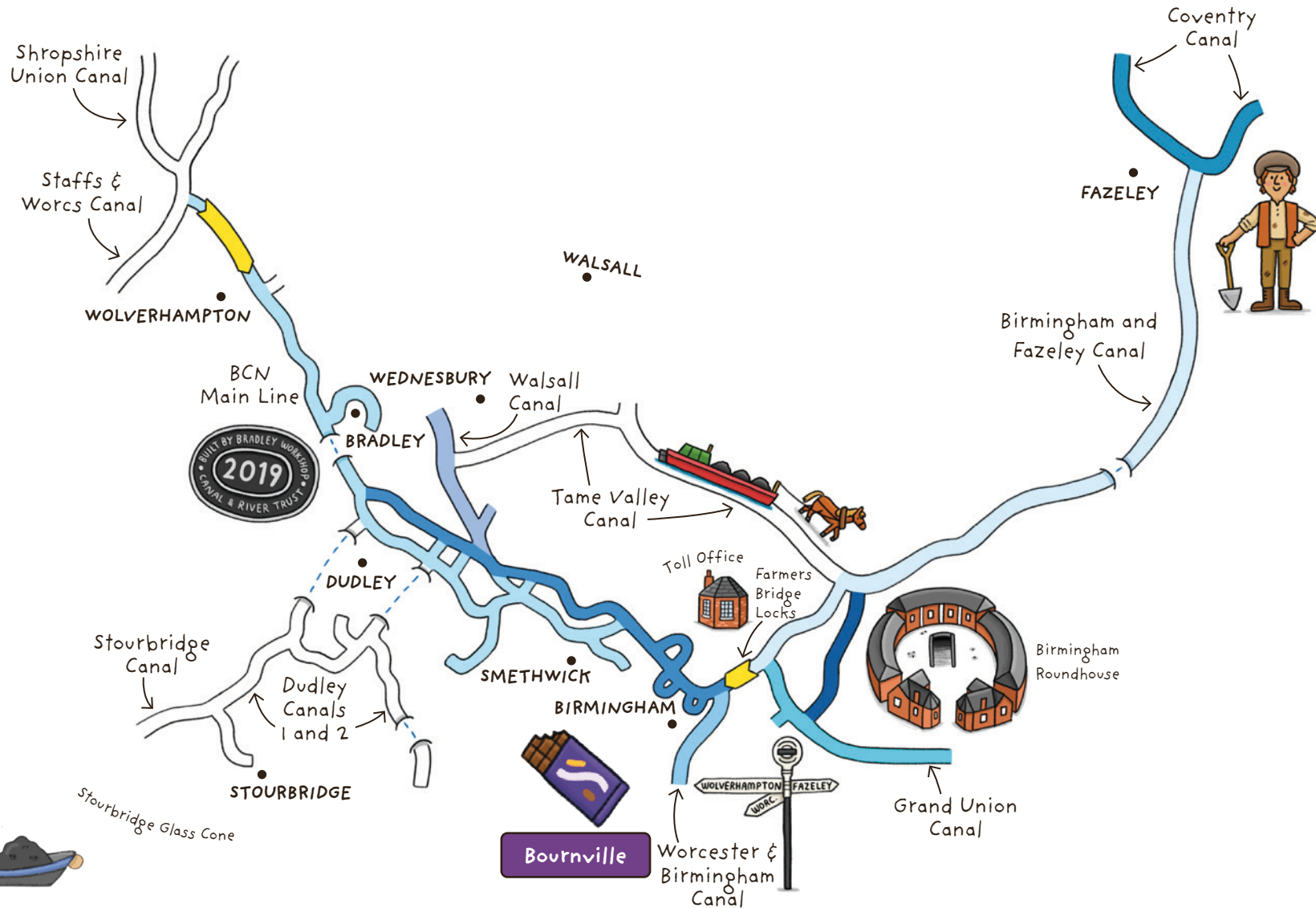
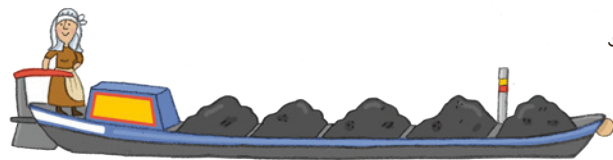


Today, the canals are still busy but with people exploring, exercising, watching wildlife and just enjoying being near water.

Birmingham's Canals

King coal

The main cargo was coal to heat furnaces, factories and home fires. It was delivered by canal boat throughout the Midlands from the quarries in Wednesbury.



CHALLENGE 1

Canals and chocolate

Birmingham is the centre of the chocolate industry in Britain. Your first Challenge is to write a poem about chocolate.

How cool is that!



Cadbury narrowboats at Bournville Wharf where chocolate crumb was unloaded.

credit Michael Ware/
Canal & River Trust



'Chocolate' Charlie Atkins delivered chocolate crumb to Cadbury's via the Trent & Mersey Canal. He loved to give it to children as he passed by.

Canals and chocolate

Chocolate 'crumb' was imported from the Caribbean into Gloucester and Liverpool Docks. (Chocolate crumb is a mixture of ingredients cooked together, dried and ground to a powder.)

At the Docks, crumb was transferred from ships to canal boats and delivered to John Cadbury's shop in central Birmingham and later to Bournville on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal (see map page 2). Some older people still remember that when they were children, passing boaters gave them chocolate crumb to eat.



Slide 1: Delivering to and from Cadbury's

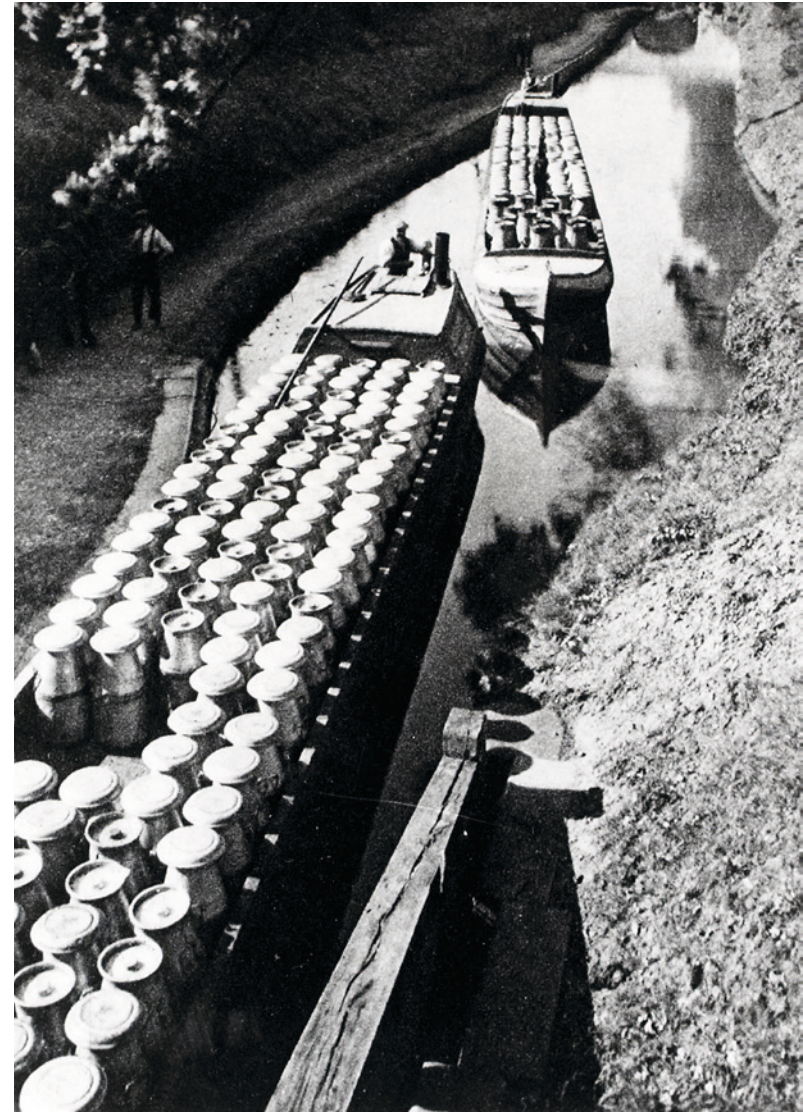


Narrowboats loaded with Cadbury's chocolate in the 1920s.



One of the last working boatmen, 'Chocolate' Charlie Atkins, on his boat *Mendip*.

credit Walsall Archives



Fresh milk to make milk chocolate is delivered via the Shropshire Union Canal in the 1920s.

credit Michael Ware/Canal & River Trust

Activity 1

Touch taste and smell

Put a small piece of chocolate in your mouth. Close your eyes. As it slowly melts, write down what you feel, taste and smell.

Chocolate poems

This poem is by 12-year-old Risha Ahmed.

'Chocolate chocolate
Ah' what a delight
You know you want it, right?
Go on, have a bite!'

Samantha Haynes wrote this poem.

'Yummy and gooey
Self-centred choc stuck to teeth.
Sugar high on me'



My chocolatey word bank

I can feel ...

I can taste ...

I can smell ...

My chocolate poem

Use your 'chocolate' words to write a poem.

Slide 2: Key Words



Here are some
useful words you could
use in your poem

Make sure
you spell them
correctly!

Activity 2

Make your own healthy snack

Unfortunately, chocolate contains a lot of sugar which is bad for you. This activity asks you to design a healthier bar.

Before you start think about:

- Do I want a soft bar, a crunchy bar or a mixture?
- What ingredients could I use to make a healthier snack bar? For example seeds and fruit (strawberries would be good).

To do

- 1 Choose your ingredients and stir into the melted chocolate.
- 2 Spoon the mixture into your container and leave to harden.
- 3 Use the paper to ease your chocolate bar out of the container.

Children picking up litter on a school activity.



Activity 3

Name your bar and write a slogan

Here's what the top five Cadbury chocolate bars are called:

- 1 Cadbury Dairy Milk
- 2 Snickers
- 3 Bounty
- 4 Flake
- 5 Twirl



Did you know that Cadbury's have bought out a new bar with less fat and sugar?

The slogan for the first Cadbury's Milk Chocolate was, 'There are 1½ glasses of fresh full cream milk in every ½ lb of Cadbury's Milk Chocolate'

Write a slogan for your chocolate bar.

Activity 4

Unfortunately, people drop chocolate wrappers (and other litter) on the towpath. Most of them made of unrecyclable materials and can take 1000 years to decompose!

Design a wrapper for your health bar using recyclable materials.

Slide 3: Picture postcards



The people who sent these postcards must have been very impressed with Bournville



This postcard shows Linden Road and the village post office in Bournville in 1905.



This postcard shows South Birmingham Arcade in the early 1900s. People could buy Cadbury's chocolates here.



This postcard shows Bournville Park. Notice the stream and little wooden bridge.

CHALLENGE 2

Having a great time!

Challenge 2 asks you to make an illustrated postcard to send to a friend or family.

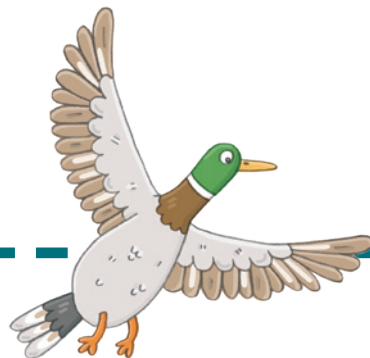


Postage stamps were introduced in 1840. New ways of sending messages, such as postcards and greeting cards, became very popular

Activity 5

Things to think about:

- People send picture postcards to show friends and family that they are having a good time, or that they are pleased to have visited somewhere special.
- Your illustration should show that your local canal is a great place to visit. How will it show that? Here are some ideas:
 - 1 A scene showing boats or a view of a canal?
 - 2 Interesting old canal buildings or new developments?
 - 3 Canal wildlife?
 - 4 Or something else?
- On the back, write a message describing how you are enjoying your local canal. Perhaps the weather is good. Or you've seen something special.
- If you are posting your postcard with a stamp you will need to fill in the full postal address of the person you are sending it to.
- If you are posting it online your teacher will do this.



Be **SAFE** near water and
Stay **Away From the Edge**

To make your postcard

- 1** Cut round the templates.
- 2** Paste the two sides together so that there will be a picture on one side and a place to write the address on the other side.

