

# History



## Find out about Lengthsman's Cottage past...

Hello! Welcome to Lengthsman's Cottage or Lock House as it was called when I lived here. My name is Ned and I lived here since I was born in 1921 with my Mum, Dad and 8 other brothers and sisters. It was a bit of a squeeze!

By the time I lived here canals weren't a very popular way to transport goods, we only saw a few boats each day. It was such fun when we did spot a boat. My brother Eddie and sister Tilly and I ran to help them at the lock. I loved to watch the boats rise up; sometimes they let us travel for a mile or two on the top. It was much more fun than helping dad out on the farm, especially when I had to muck out the horses – yuck!

Some days my brothers and I spent all day helping dad at the farm, we were so smelly that at the end of the day Mum made us all have baths. The girls had to walk all the way to the village pump and fill the buckets up that Mum heated over the range before she poured them into our tin bath. I hate having a bath in the tub is so uncomfortable. If I could swim I'd rather have a bath in the canal!



I shared a bed with my brothers and sisters. We'd top and tail so we could all fit in. I can't wait till I'm older and get to have my very own bed! No more smelly feet in my face. At least in winter it was nice and cosy, even if the girls did make us warm the bed up before they got in!

### Canal Facts:

Did you know that the maximum speed on canals is 4 miles an hour.

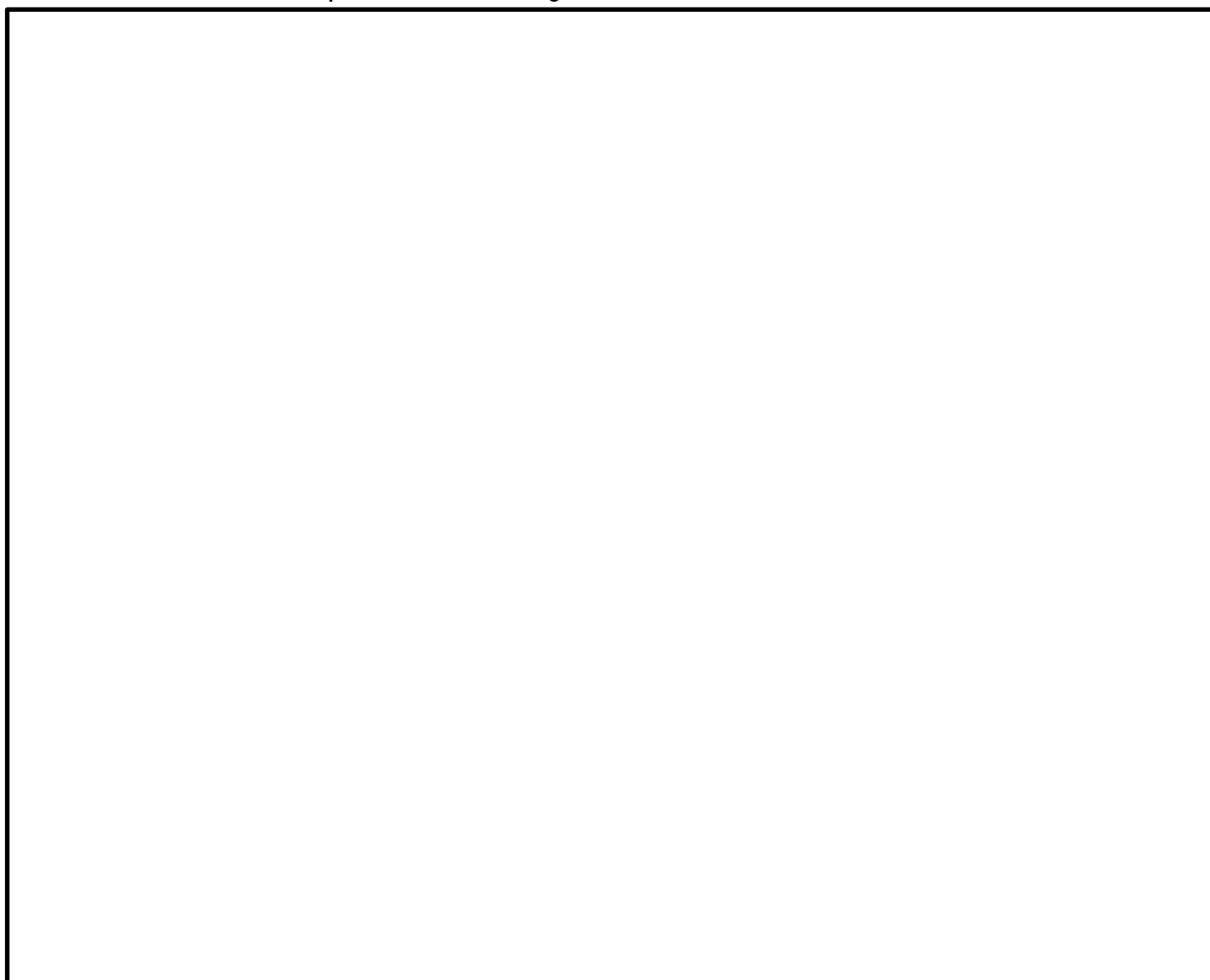
There are 1,654 locks in Britain.

Canals were built by people to carry things from one place to another



It was so much fun in the winter here. Sometimes the canal froze over if it was cold enough. Canal workers had to come and break the ice so the boats could get through. If it was really cold and had snowed they knew there was no point in breaking the ice as it'd freeze over again. When the ice was really thick we'd ride along the ice on our bikes having a competition to see who'd ride there bike the straightest line. It was very tricky and I fell off lots of times on the ice. Ouch! I wouldn't try riding my bike over ice now though; the ice doesn't freeze as thick as it did. If it cracks you might fall in and drown.

In the box below draw a picture of us riding our bikes over the ice.



I loved our little cottage; there are only a few like ours. We have a special roof called a barrel-roof. A bit like a beer barrel I guess. My favourite part of the cottage is its eyebrow, that's the black semi-circle line of the roof at the front. What's your favourite part of the cottage?

.....

# Unruly Rulers



## Who were the Georgians?

The **Georgians** were nobles from Germany. George I was King James I's great grandson. So when Queen Anne died with no heirs George became king. They are called **Georgians** because they are all called George (apart from William – but he wasn't meant to be king anyway!) Their surname was **Hanover** so this time is also called the **Hanoverian** (say 'han-o-ver-ee-an') period.



### King George II

A boring king who only liked to fight battles. He died on the toilet of constipation, pooh!

1714

### King George I

A king from Germany who couldn't speak much English. He kept his wife in prison for 32 years - how mean!



1727

1760

### King George III

A popular king who went mad. He started talking to an oak tree in Windsor thinking it was Frederick the Great! Poor Georgie, he had to stop ruling as he was so mad.



George III's son George IV had to step in and rule as Prince Regent. This was called the **Regency Period**.



### King George IV

A bad king who ruined all his dad's hard work. He loved to drink, eat and party!

1820

1830

### King William IV

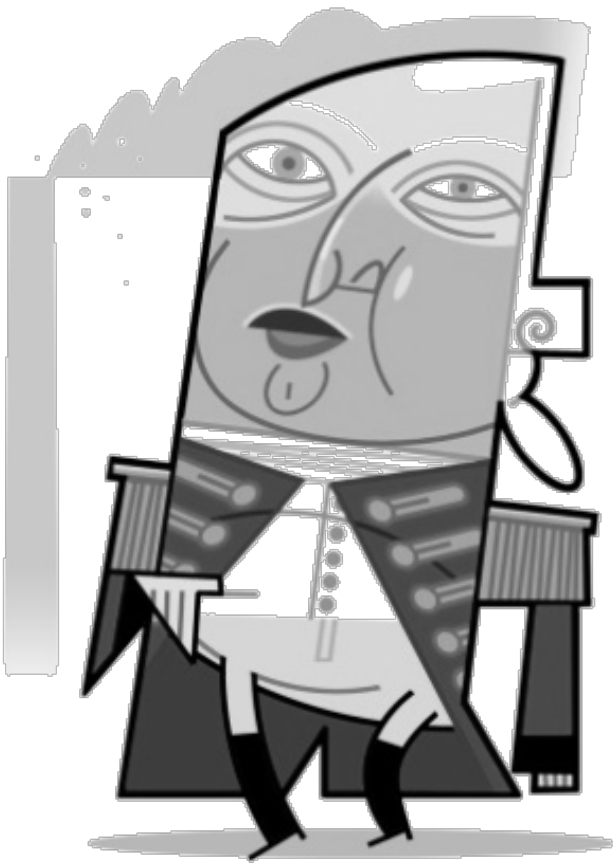
A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





# Meet King George III

– who ruled when this Landmark was built.



## Hi Georgie!

### So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 October 1760 when I was just 22.

### What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

### What is your favourite thing to do?

I like playing with my youngest children. I had 15 in all!

### What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to tax the Americans in the colonies and do you know what? They declared their independence!



## History of canals

The late 1700s saw the start of the **Industrial Revolution**. Many factories were built in the big towns, especially factories making cloth. Lots of iron and coal was needed to power the factories and heat the workers' houses but it was mined far away in the country. The roads were very bad and it took a very long time to transport the coal and iron by road in a wagon.

Goods were carried by sea and river all the time. Then people realised that if they made their own waterway, they could move goods exactly where they were needed. These waterways were called canals. Canals made transport much easier and faster. Many factories were built right next to canals to make it even easier. The goods were loaded straight into a narrow boat and then a horse pulled it along the towpath.

Building a canal took many years and was a very hard and dirty job. The canals were dug by workers called 'navvies'. The navvies dug out the channels and then used wooden frames to support the sides so the channel didn't collapse. They used clay, limestone, brick or stone to line the channel so the water didn't soak away into the ground. Once it was waterproof, water was channelled from nearby streams and rivers to fill the canal. Job done!

Each canal had Lengthsmen who looked after their own 'length' of canal and towpath. They lived in cottages built along the canal so they were close by to make sure the locks were in good working order.

Railways and steam engines were invented soon after all the canals were built. Railways were much faster than canal boats and could carry a lot more. This meant that canals were soon no longer used as much. Today most of the narrow boats on the canals are carrying people on holiday. Perhaps one day you'll have a holiday on a narrow boat!

### Fact:

The **Industrial Revolution** was a time of great change. New machines were invented to spin cotton and weave cloth. Big factories were built in the cities and many people moved from the country to live and work in the cities.

Before canals one packhorse could carry about 100kg of goods. A narrow boat on a canal pulled by one horse could carry about 20 tons – the same as 200 horses by themselves!

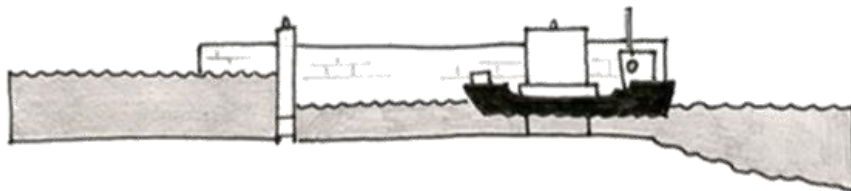




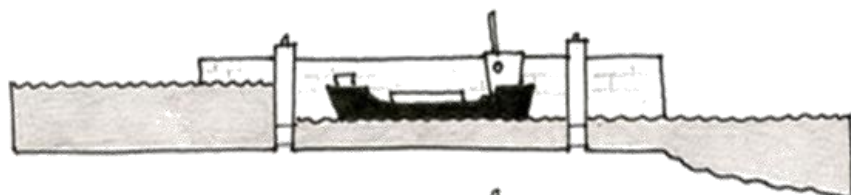
## How does a lock work?

The one problem with canals is that it was difficult to travel up and down hill. Water doesn't go uphill by itself. Or does it? Locks were designed to help boats move up and down hill. Look at the diagram below to see how a lock works.

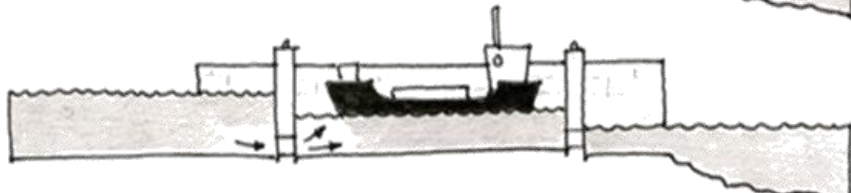
1. If a boat wants to go uphill it goes into the lock at a lower level of water. The paddles and gates open for the lock to fill to the same level of water.



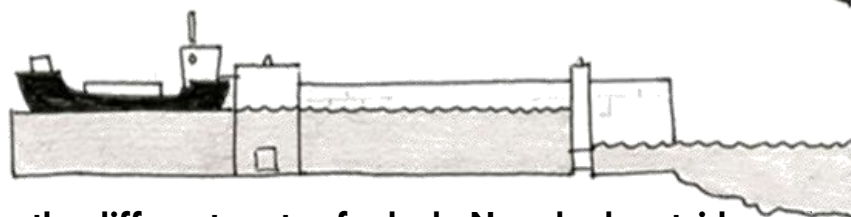
2. Once the lock is the same level the boat goes into the lock, and the gates and paddles close behind it.



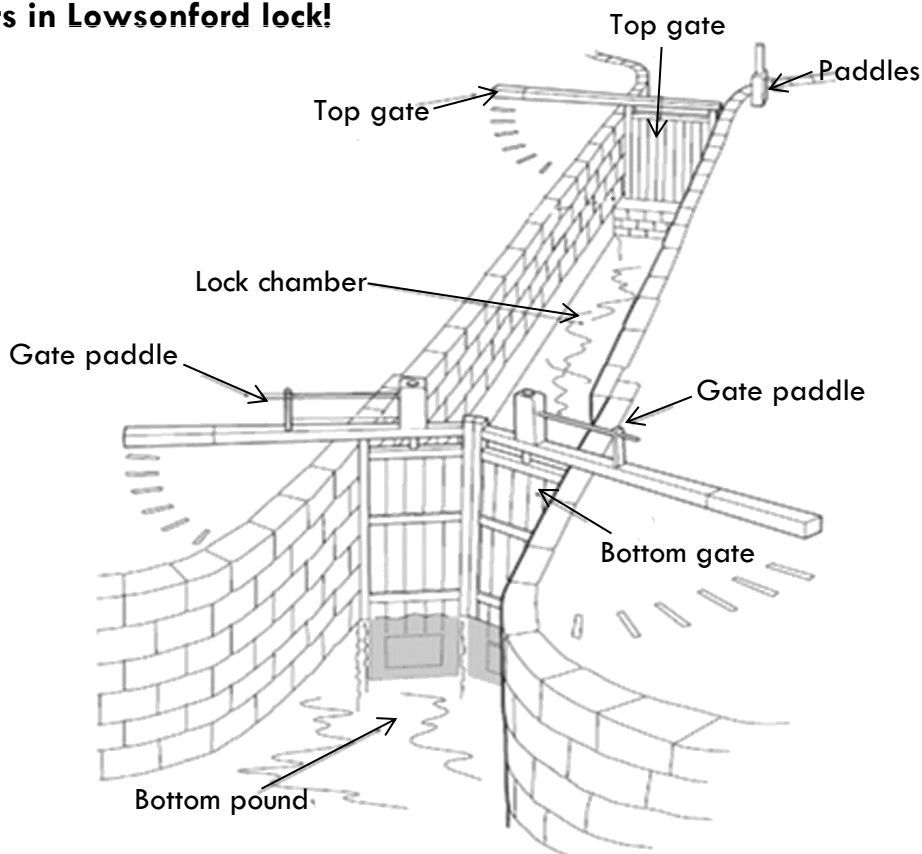
4. Then the second set of paddles open to let water fill the lock to the higher level - a bit like filling a bath!



5. The boat rises up on the water to the higher level. When the lock is full the top gates are opened and the boat can go on its way.



Take a look at the diagram below to see the different parts of a lock. Now look outside and spot these bits in Lawsonford lock!



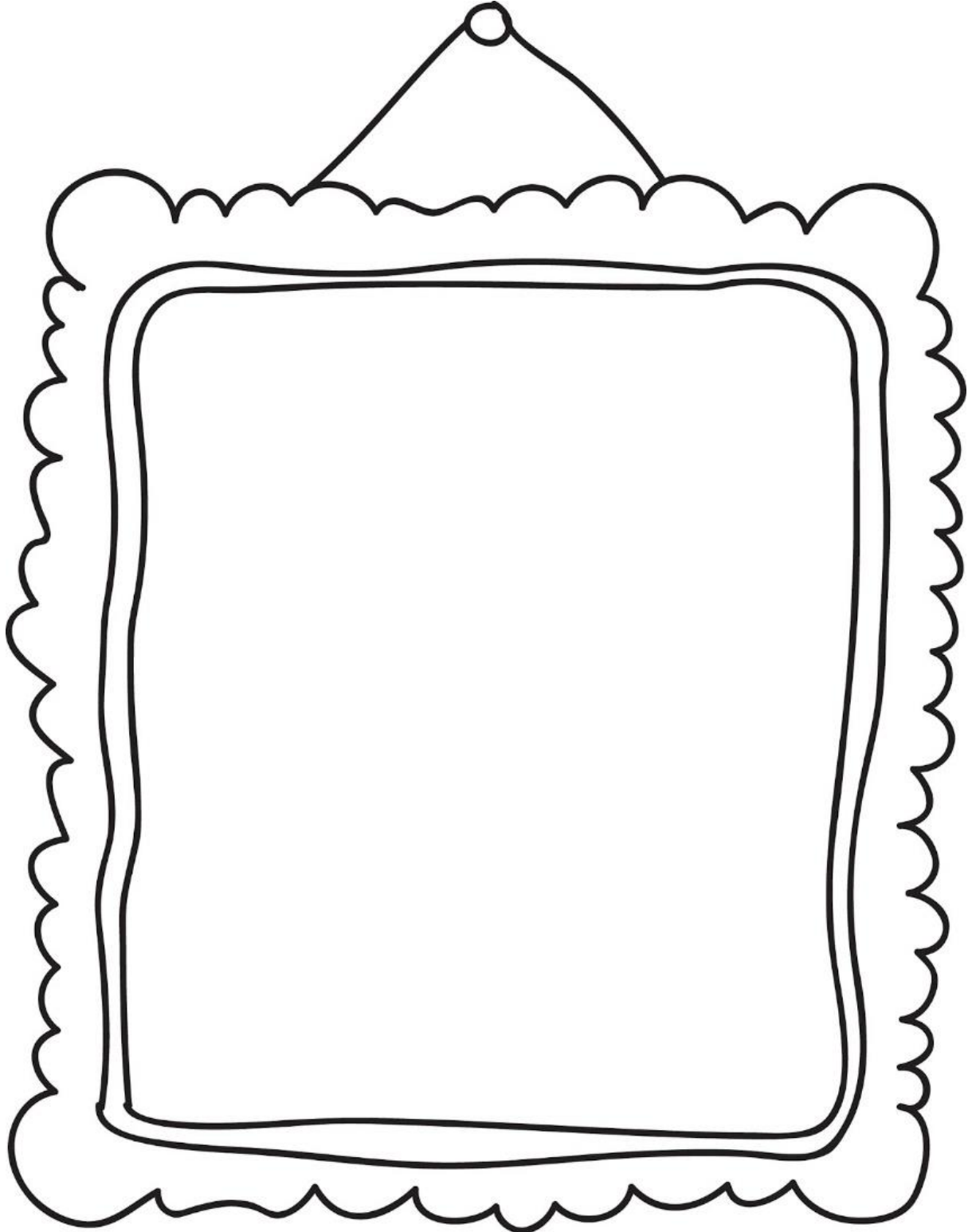


Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

**Have a go at drawing the front of Lengthsman's Cottage. What do you notice about the roof?**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!

And don't worry if you make a mess of your drawing, just use the other side.

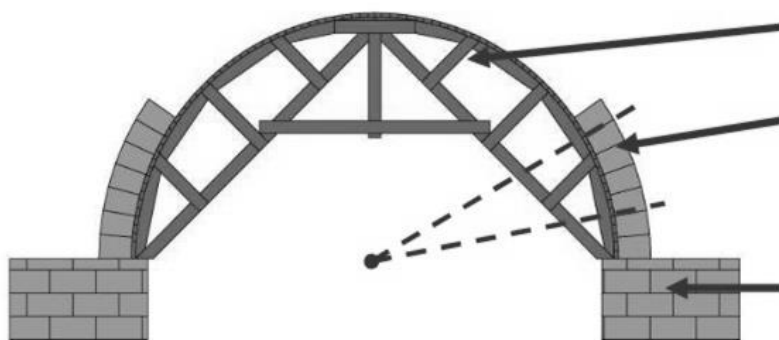




## How was Lengthsman's Cottage roof built?

The canal builders weren't used to building houses. They could build walls and tunnels but didn't know how to build normal roofs. So they made the roofs of the cottages just like they did the roof of a tunnel or bridge. These cottages are called **barrel-roofed**. Can you think why?

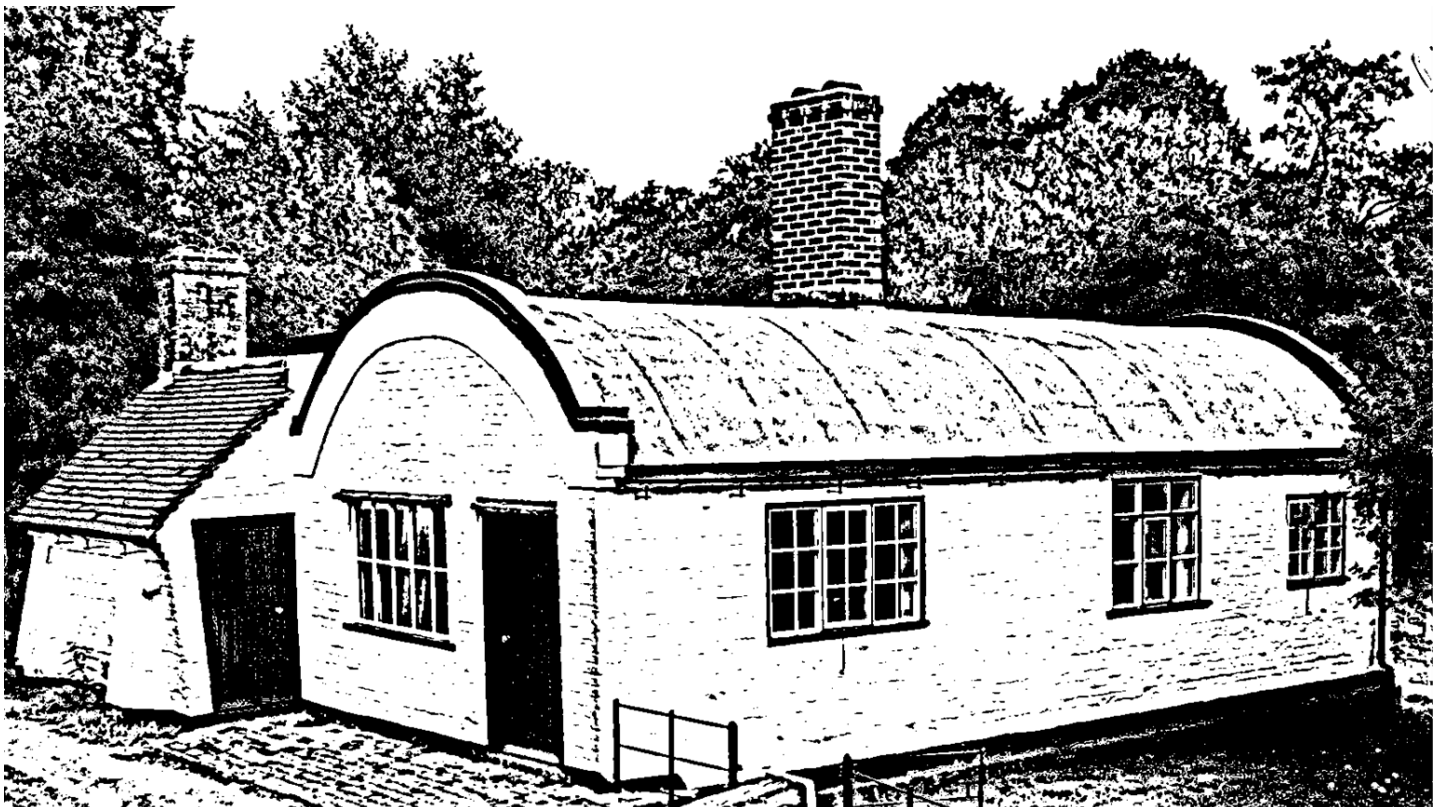
Ever wondered how to build a tunnel or a bridge? Here's how to do it...



Make a wooden **former** to put on the walls. When the arch is finished, this will be taken away.

Next build bricks around the former in line with the **radius**. That's the line from the middle of a circle to the edge. Gravity keeps them all sitting tightly. Take the former away and – dadah! You have an arched roof.

Brick walls are the first step.





# Quest



## Discover more about the canal.

Lengthsman's Cottage was built around 1812 as part of the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal. The canal was built between 1793 and 1816. It was built to transport coal to Oxford and London. When walking along the canal see if you can find these things.

### Can you see any raised bricks?

Raised bricks were used to help the horses who were pulling the canal boats to stop slipping.



### Can you see any grooves on tunnel walls or along the top of canal bridges?

These grooves were made by the towing ropes that the horses pulled the boats with.



### Can you find any bollards and rings?

These are very important as the boat ties its ropes to these to 'moor' that means to stop the boat from floating away and keep it in the same place.

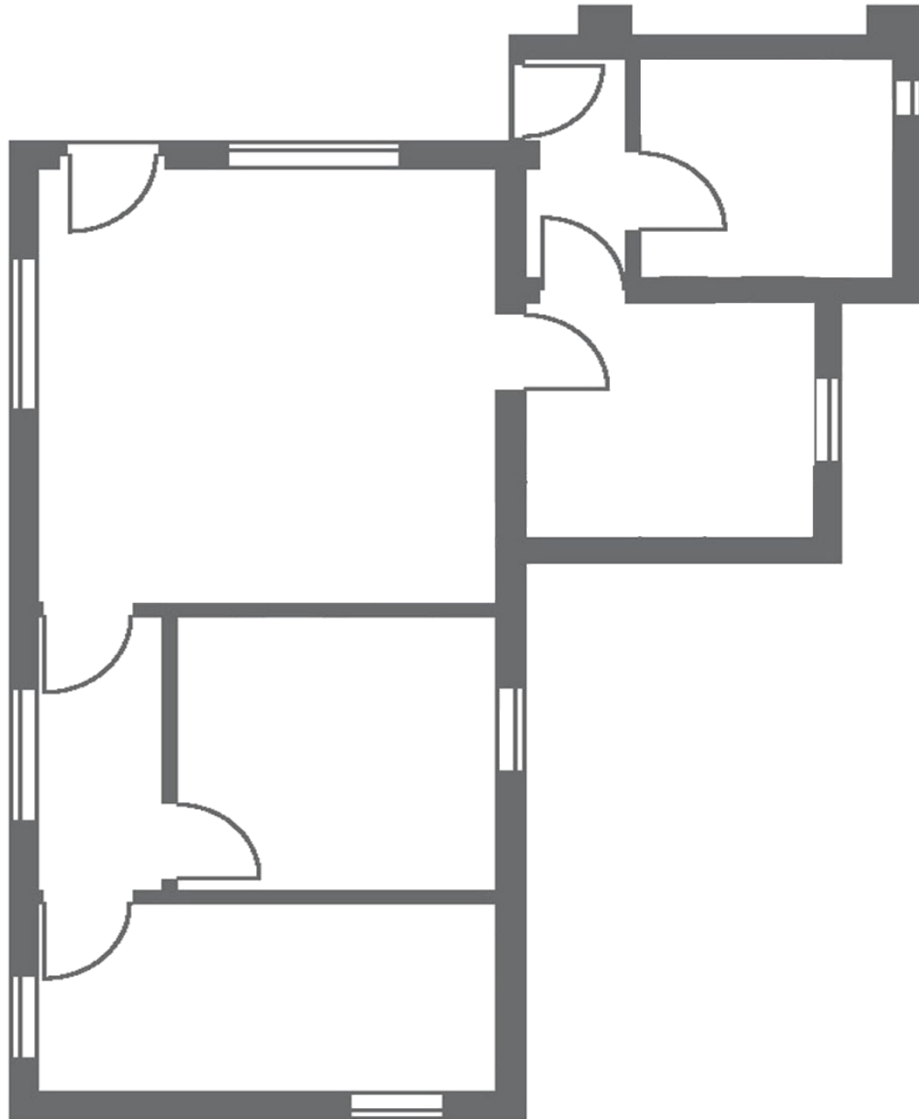


Have you found anything else interesting on your quest?  
Write about it below and draw a picture of it in the box.



## Living in Lengthsman's Cottage

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The plan below shows you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each room and write on the plan what each room is used for.



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



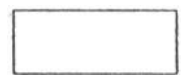
Bathroom



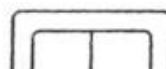
Cooker



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Lengthsman's Cottage. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

A large empty rectangular box intended for drawing a chair.

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

A large empty rectangular box intended for drawing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box intended for drawing a rug pattern.

### Fact:

Did you know that water can wear things away? As boats go past, they make small waves that wash the banks away. 200 years ago, the canal builders knew that planting reeds against the banks would help to stop this from happening.

In the box below, draw the view from your favourite window. What can you see in the distance? Is anyone on the canal?

A large empty rectangular box intended for drawing a view from a window.

# Puzzle



## Ned's Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and the canal. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

H O U N S D R A L L O B C L  
E L O C K A S C S G N I R E  
L K E E D L H P D U B C T N  
C Y N N W T E O O C A R G O  
O W O E G M N E L S O I C P  
T D I G I T O W P A T H E A  
T T W D N A H N B L U O N D  
A O F I T T T S E I B R N D  
G E H R O I O H M C S S R L  
E Y E B R O W A L E O E E E  
L I G T H I L G D N N S Z L  
O B R I C K S T R P U G I G  
I S I T M O I L A N A C N N

CANAL  
BOAT  
LENGTHSMEN  
TOWPATH

COTTAGE  
EYEBROW  
LOCK  
HORSES

TUNNEL  
KNOT  
BOLLARDS  
BRIDGE

RINGS  
BRICKS  
PADDLE  
CARGO

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

/
16



## Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. How much could one horse-drawn narrow boat carry?

200 tons

20 tons

200kg

2kg

2. How many locks are there in the United Kingdom?

1,654

6,154

4,516

5,461

3. What type of cottage is Lengthsman's Cottage?

Flat -roofed

Barrel-roofed

Pointed-roof

Semi-circle roof

4. What county is Lengthsman's Cottage in?

Wiltshire

Yorkshire

Warwickshire

Kent

5. What is the name of the Canal here?

Shropshire Union  
Canal

Trent & Mersey  
Canal

Oxford Canal

Stratford-Upon-Avon  
Canal

6. What does a lock do?

It does nothing, it just  
looks pretty

Make a boat traffic  
Jam

Helps a boat move  
up and down hill

Makes a swimming  
pool

7. What caused the canals to stop being used?

People were scared  
of water

The horses got too  
tired

Trains and railways  
were invented

There were too many  
boat crashes

8. What is the maximum speed you can travel on a canal?

100mph

10mph

70mph

4mph

To find the answers skip a page...



## Which boat is which?

There are five pictures of river and canal boats for you to match.



**Maintenance barge**, they look after the canals and boats.



**Kayak**, they have a closed deck and the paddles have two blades.



**Sea-going cruiser**, they can be used on the sea and rivers.



**Skiff**, they are small boats used for fishing and leisure.



**Narrow boat**, some people live on them and some people have holidays on them.

Did you match them correctly? Put your score in the box.



Look out for these when you go for a walk!



# Answer sheet:

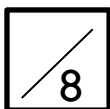
## Quiz answers:

1. 20 tons
2. 1,654
3. Barrel-roof
4. Warwickshire
5. Stratford-Upon-Avon Canal
6. Helps a boat move up and down hill
7. Trains and railways were invented
8. 4mph

## Fact:

Rubbish was carried on boats long after dustbin lorries became popular as they could carry so much. Local authorities had their own fleets of boats to collect rubbish. What smelly boats!

How many did you get right?



## Have a go at writing your own quiz to test your family and friends!

1. ....

a. ....    b. ....    c. ....    d. ....

2. ....

a. ....    b. ....    c. ....    d. ....

3. ....

a. ....    b. ....    c. ....    d. ....

4. ....

a. ....    b. ....    c. ....    d. ....

5. ....

a. ....    b. ....    c. ....    d. ....







## **Draw your own narrow boat**

Boats were used to carry goods such as food, ale, coal and timber to sell (like a lorry nowadays). Locks are now mainly used by people who are travelling on boats for fun. The very long boats are called narrow boats. Lots of people have holidays on these boats travelling around the country. Have a go at designing your own narrow boat below. Or draw your favourite boat that you saw at the lock!





## Plum cake

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

- 8 plums (take out the stones)
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup olive oil

Preheat the oven to gas: 5, fan: 190°C

- Line a rectangular baking tray with greaseproof paper
- Chop the plums in quarters
- Crack the eggs into a bowl and beat together, add the sugar and mix together until thick
- Add the olive oil and vanilla extract into the mixture (keep mixing!)
- Mix in the lemon zest and yogurt
- Sift the flour and baking powder into the mixture folding it into the mixture
- Pour the mixture into the tray and press the plums in on top
- Bake in the oven for 35-40 minutes
- Cut into slices and eat! Mmmm!

