

As the Industrial Revolution began to accelerate during the 18th century (Georgian times) so there was increasing demand for people to travel and for raw materials and finished goods to be transported. The growing industries in the West Midlands (Black Country), the Potteries (Stoke on Trent) and the other coalfield based industries all required transport. Transportation by canal was soon to be the answer.

## Key Information:

- The Industrial Revolution began to accelerate during the 18th century.
- The industries in the West Midlands (Black Country), the Potteries (Stoke on Trent) were growing. John Ward (1724-1788) the land owner of coal mines, limestone quarries, fireclay and ironstone mines was concerned with transporting heavy cargoes to the River Severn navigation and to Birmingham and London.
- Canals were built because of the need for this transportation as the roads were so poor.
- The proposals for the Stourbridge Canals were agreed in two portions, Stourton to Stourbridge and Pensnett to Stourbridge.
- Fens Pool (Pensnett) acted as a reservoir to help supply the canal system with water.
- The Stourbridge Canal was finally opened in 1779, notwithstanding engineering problems at the Delph.

## How do we know?

### Evidence:

Historical records, maps, accounts, diagrams, museums, remaining examples.

## Vocabulary:

Turnpike	a road maintained by a Turnpike Trust, authorised by Parliament, allowing the collection of a toll to pay for road maintenance
Canal	an artificial waterway constructed to transport fragile and bulk goods
Lock	this allows boats on a canal to change levels as the canal crosses land that is not level
Bargee	a person who works and lives on a barge or narrowboat
Navvy	the original canals were called navigations and the workers on them were navigators (navvies). They were often migrant labourers from Ireland or Scotland
Toll keeper	a person who collects the tolls on a turnpike road
Lock keeper	a person who lives by the canal and collects tolls for boats using the lock
The Cut'	this is a dialect word for canal
Barge	a flat-bottomed boat that uses canals
Narrow boat	a flat-bottomed boat whose width is less than 7 feet and uses the British canal system
Legging	a way of propelling a narrow boat through a tunnel (using legs) which does not have a towpath
Aqueduct	a bridge carrying a canal across a valley
Tow path	the path alongside a canal where the horses (or mules) used to walk to pull the vessels



## National Curriculum:

a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality.