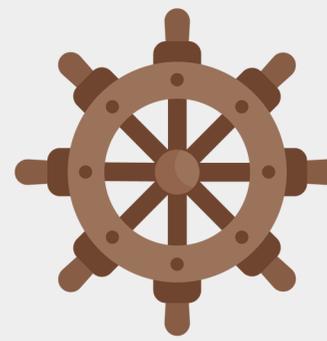


BOATS ON THE TAY



INTRODUCTION

From earliest times, people have travelled across, up, down and on the river Tay in a range of boats. Boats have been used for fishing, for crossing the river, for pleasure trips and for transporting cargo. This unit investigates seven types of boat used on the Tay, some modern and some from the past. Teachers can focus on one boat related to their locality, or can look at several different boats.

Below, we suggest some approaches for several mini-investigations of the boats of the Tay. Activity 1 is most suitable for pupils working at Level 1, and Activity 2 is more suitable for pupils working at Level 2, but either could be adapted for different levels. Activity 3 is suitable for either level.

Following these, we provide background information, further resources and links to the content for pupils shown on the website.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

If your school is close to the river, take a short walk. Are there any boats on the river?

What can you see?

Alternatively, set this as an optional homework task, or skip this step altogether.

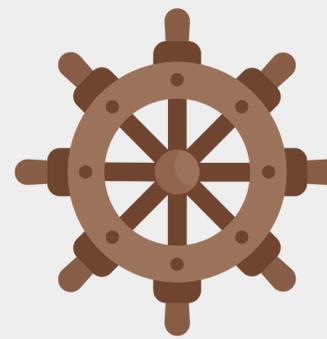
Discuss what boats are used for (carrying things, carrying people, for pleasure, for work etc).

Have a look at the seven boats featured in the pupil material for this topic. What is/was each boat used for?



Pupils could work in small groups and each group could look at a particular boat and then feedback to the rest of the class.

BOATS ON THE TAY



ACTIVITY 1: BOATS FROM THE PAST

CURRICULAR AREA

Writing:
Creating Texts

EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

I can convey information, describe events or processes, share my opinions or persuade my reader in different ways.
LIT 1-28a / LIT 1-29a

Having explored the elements which writers use in different genres, I can use what I learn to create my own stories, poems and plays with interesting structures, characters and/or settings.
ENG 1-31a

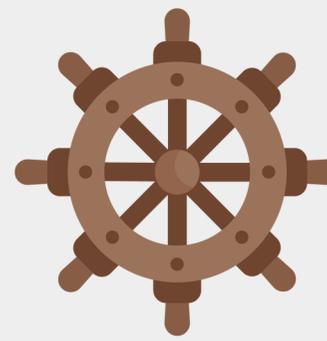
KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Choose a boat from the past to focus on, ideally one with a connection to your locality.
Boats from the past are:

- the Carpow log boat
- the salmon coble
- the pleasure steamers
- the Waulkmill chain ferry
- the Dundee-Newport ferry
- the Larches ferry at Newburgh

Using the images and pupil fact files provided, pupils create a piece of scaffolded writing about their boat. This could be factual, or could be an imaginative piece of writing about a journey on that boat.

BOATS ON THE TAY



ACTIVITY 1: BOATS FROM THE PAST

CURRICULAR AREA

Social Studies:
People, Past Events
and Environment

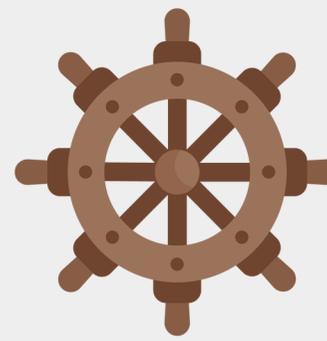
EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

Through activities in my local area, I have developed my mental map and sense of place. I can create and use maps of the area.
SOC 1-14a

KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Create a large map of the River Tay on your wall. In groups pupils draw/paint/collage images of their boat and stick them on the correct place, alongside their writing. The route probably taken by the boat could be shown on the map.

BOATS ON THE TAY



ACTIVITY 2: THE WORLD COMES TO PERTH

CURRICULAR AREA

Social Studies:
People, Past Events
and Environment

EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

To extend my mental map and sense of place, I can interpret information from different types of maps and am beginning to locate key features within Scotland, UK, Europe or the wider world.
SOC 2-14a

KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

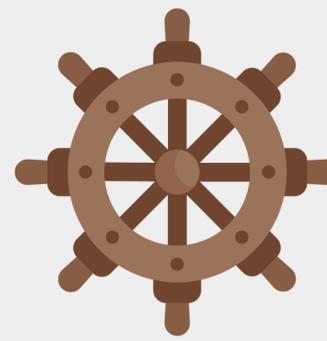
Contact Perth harbour
<http://perthharbour.co.uk/contact-us/>

Find out what boats are currently in the harbour, where they've come from and what they are carrying. This information could be plotted on a classroom map.

If possible organise a visit to the harbour. Take photographs of any ships and if possible interview the harbour master or any skippers of the boats.

The VesselFinder mobile app may be useful. It provides real-time data on the positions and movements of vessels.

BOATS ON THE TAY



ACTIVITY 2: THE WORLD COMES TO PERTH

CURRICULAR AREA

Social Studies:
People, Past Events
and Environment

EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

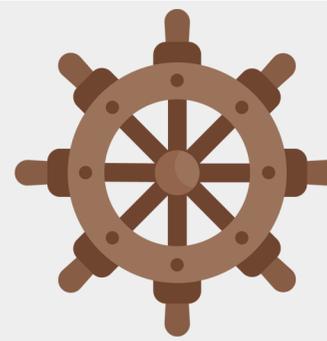
I can convey information,
describe events, explain
processes or combine ideas
in different ways.
LIT 2-28a

Having explored the elements
which writers use in different
genres, I can use what I learn to
create stories, poems and plays
with an interesting and
appropriate structure,
interesting characters and/or
settings which come to life.
ENG 2-31a

KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Using the material gathered at
the harbour pupils create a
piece of either factual or
imaginative writing about their
boat, describing the journey.

BOATS ON THE TAY

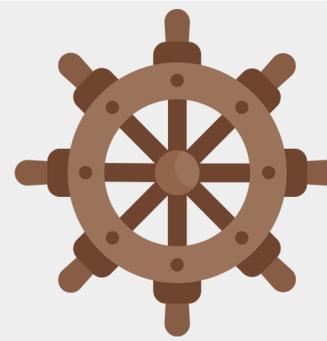


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CARPOW LOG BOAT - FROM CARPOW, WEST OF NEWBURGH

- The log boat from Carpow is around 3000 years old and is the second oldest boat that we know about from Scotland.
- It was discovered in 2001 and was excavated from the mudflats of the estuary in 2006.
- It is around 9m long and is carved from an oak tree trunk.
- It was probably used by Bronze Age people to fish, hunt for birds and for crossing the Tay.
- Seven other log boats were found in the Tay area in the 19th century, but only one of them still survives. It is on display in Dundee museum.
- This log boat is currently in Glasgow.

BOATS ON THE TAY

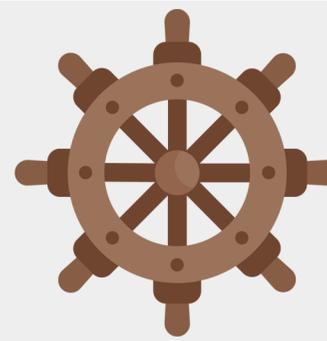


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE LARCHES FERRY BOAT- NEWBURGH

- This boat was built in 1905 by the Atholl Estate.
- In 1927 it was washed down the Tay to Perth in a flood.
- It was then taken over by the Tay Salmon Fisheries and used to carry reeds from Mugdrum Island, and to ferry cattle and sheep to and from the island.
- It was used until 1972.

BOATS ON THE TAY

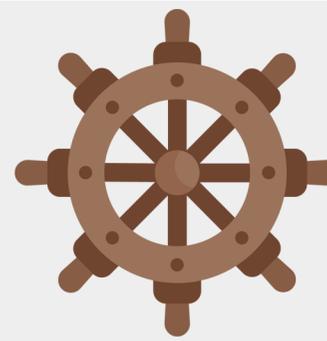


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CHAIN FERRY - WAULKMILL, STORMONTFORD, NORTH OF PERTH

- The ferry at Waulkmill carried people from Stormontfield across the Tay to Perth.
- From 1877 it was a chain ferry: the boat was pulled across the river using a fixed chain.
- In 1891 the ferry capsized and two horses and carts were swept off the boat. The men survived but the horses drowned.
- There was no timetable: if you wanted to cross from Stormontfield, you went to the ferryman's house and shouted 'BOAT!' to summon the ferryman. To cross from the other side you had to ring a bell.
- The ferry 'man' from 1921-1928 was in fact a woman: May Fenwick. She operated the chain ferry for seven years, and after this time she simply rowed passengers across.
- The ferry was in use until 1964.
- The old ferryman's bothy is still there, along with a reproduction of the table of fares charged by the ferryman.

BOATS ON THE TAY

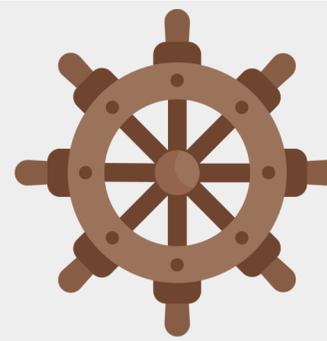


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BOATS ON THE TAY

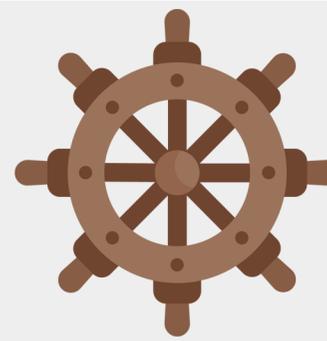


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE SS SCOTSCRAIG - DUNDEE TO AND BACK TO NEWPORT

- Before the Tay bridges were built, the only way to cross the Tay between Dundee and Newport was by ferry.
- The ferries were generally known as the 'Fifies'.
- Paddle steamers were used from 1825 and later on motor steamers were used as well.
- As motor traffic increased after the First World War, there were more ferry crossings. There was a ferry every half hour.
- The length of the journey depended on the state of the tide. At high tide the journey took about ten minutes, but at low tide the boat had to skirt sand banks and it could take much longer.
- The ferry service only stopped with the opening of the Tay Road Bridge in 1966.
- The last paddle steamer was the BL Nairn, which operated from 1929-1966. Two other motor ferries were also operating at this time.

BOATS ON THE TAY

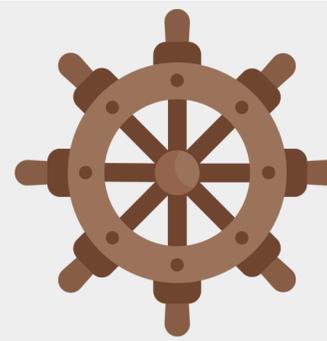


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PADDLE STEAMER: PLEASURE BOAT - DUNDEE TO AND BACK TO BRIDGE OF EARN

- From the late 19th century there were pleasure boats on the Tay. Leaving from Dundee, they stopped at Balmerino, Newburgh and Perth.
- Some smaller boats carried passengers up the River Earn to Bridge of Earn. These needed to have a shallow 'draught' and so a number of these were paddle steamers.

BOATS ON THE TAY

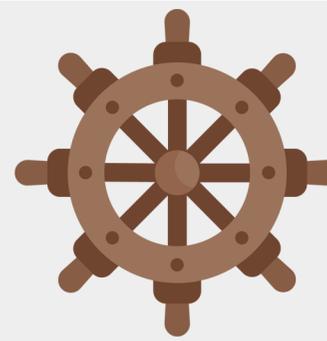


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CARGO BOAT: *ATHOS* - PERTH

- Perth harbour can accommodate ships up to 90m in length. There are four berths for ships of this size.
- Most ships arriving in Perth are from Britain's east coast, Scandinavia, the Baltic and the Low Countries.
- Cargoes are generally animal feed, fertilisers, timber and minerals such as baryte.
- All cargo boats coming into Perth harbour have to use a pilot to help them navigate the river between Dundee and Perth.

BOATS ON THE TAY

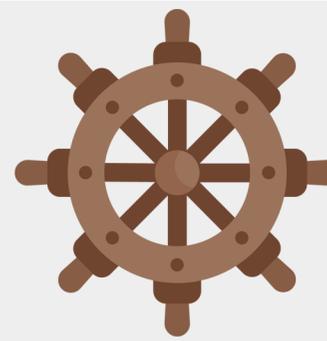


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TUG BOAT: *FAIR MAID OF PERTH* - PERTH

- The Fair Maid of Perth is a tug boat based in Perth harbour.
- It is designed to tow, push, dredge, rescue and carry out general harbour maintenance roles.
- The tug helps manoeuvre boats in and out of Perth harbour safely.
- It is 13m long.

BOATS ON THE TAY

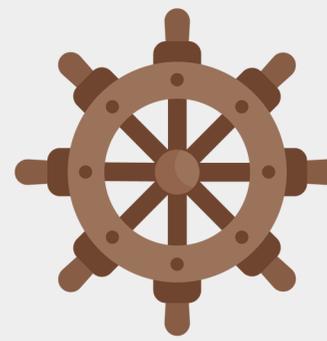


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SCHOONERS IN PERTH HARBOUR - PERTH

- The image in the pupil material shows Perth harbour in the 19th century.
- Schooners are being loaded with potatoes for export.

BOATS ON THE TAY



FURTHER RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/cre8time/build-boat-buoyancy.shtml

<http://inspirationlaboratories.com/how-to-build-a-boat/>

TAY SALMON: NET FISHING MEMORIES

Fife Rural Partnership, (2009)

A booklet with photographs and oral histories of the Tay Salmon Fishing industry. To obtain a copy, contact Jim Findlay on jimfindlay7@outlook.com or through the Trust web site

www.tayandearntrust.org

PUPIL RESOURCES

CARPOW LOG BOAT

FISHING COBLE

CHAIN FERRY

**THE LARCHES FERRY
BOAT**

THE SS SCOTSCRAIG

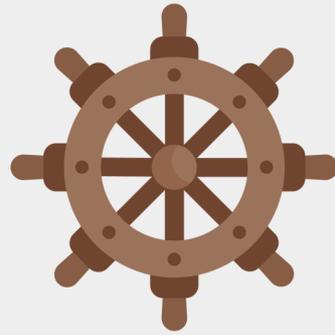
**PADDLE STEAMER:
PLEASURE BOAT**

CARGO BOAT: *ATHOS*

**TUG BOAT: *FAIR MAID OF
PERTH***

**SCHOONERS IN PERTH
HARBOUR**

BOATS ON THE TAY



CARPOW LOG BOAT

This boat is around **3000 YEARS OLD.**

It was discovered in **2001** and was excavated from the mudflats of the estuary in **2006.**

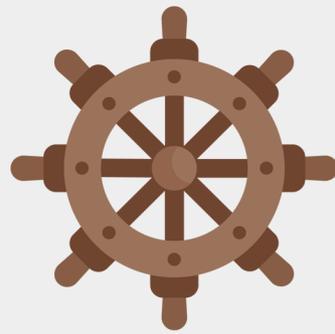
SEVEN OTHER LOG BOATS were found in the Tay area in the 19th century, but only one of them still survives. It is on display in **DUNDEE MUSEUM.**

It is around **9M LONG** and was carved from a single **OAK TREE TRUNK.**

It was probably used by **BRONZE AGE** people to fish, hunt for birds and for crossing the Tay.

The Carpow log boat is on display in **PERTH MUSEUM.**

BOATS ON THE TAY



FISHING COBLE

Salmon swim up the river to lay **EGGS** back in the pools where they were hatched.

A **LONG NET** was held at one end on the shore. The other end was rowed out into the river on a coble. The net was then released from the stern of the coble to **SURROUND THE FISH**. Then the full net was hauled ashore.

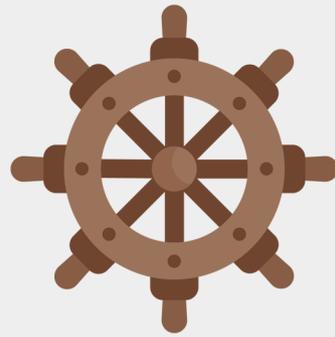
Since the **1880s**, every year there is a coble race at **NEWBURGH**.

Up until **1996** salmon were caught using a coble and '**SWEEP NET**'.

Salmon numbers began to **DROP** in the **1980s**. This was one of the reasons that net and coble fishing came to an end.

Today cobles are still used for **ROD FISHING**. They are handmade by boat builder **JOHN FERGUSON** at **STANLEY**.

BOATS ON THE TAY



'FIFIE' FERRY FROM NEWPORT

Before the Tay bridges were built, the only way to cross the Tay between **DUNDEE** and **NEWPORT** was by ferry.

The ferries were generally known as the '**FIFIES**'.

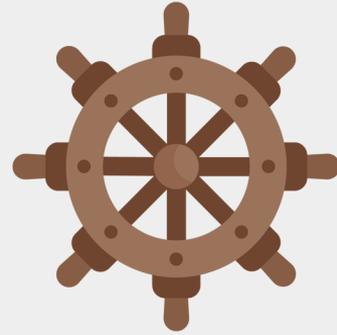
PADDLE STEAMERS were used from 1825 and later on **MOTOR STEAMERS** were used as well.

As motor traffic increased after the **FIRST WORLD WAR**, there were more ferry crossings. There was a ferry **EVERY HALF HOUR**.

The length of the journey depended on the state of the **TIDE**. At high tide the journey took about **TEN MINUTES**, but at low tide the boat had to **SKIRT SAN BANKS** and it could take much longer.

The ferry service only **STOPPED** with the opening of the **TAY ROAD BRIDGE** in 1966.

BOATS ON THE TAY



FERRY FROM NEWBURGH

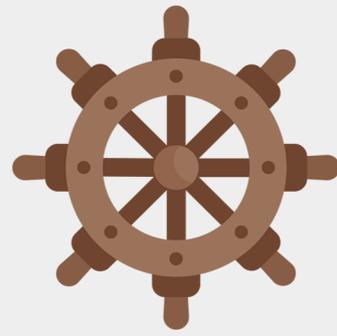
This boat was built in **1905** by the **ATHOLL ESTATE**.

It was then taken over by the **TAY SALMON FISHERIES** and used to carry reeds from **MUGDRUM ISLAND**, and to ferry cattle and sheep to and from the island.

In 1927 it was **WASHED DOWN** the Tay to Perth in a flood.

It was used until **1972**.

BOATS ON THE TAY



SHIPS OF PERTH HARBOUR

Perth harbour can take ships up to **90M** in length. There are **FOUR BERTHS** for ships of this size.

The ships usually carry **ANIMAL FEED, FERTILISERS, TIMBER** and **MINERALS** such as **BARYTE**.

THE FAIR MAID OF PERTH is a tug boat based in Perth harbour.

The tug helps **MANOEUVRE BOATS** in and out of Perth harbour safely.

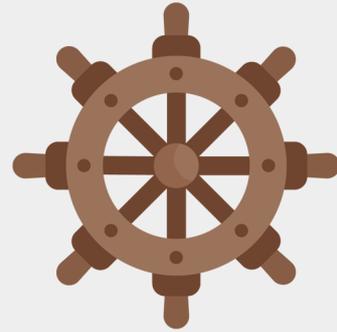
Most ships arriving in Perth are from **BRITAIN'S EAST COAST, SCANDINAVIA, THE BALTIC** and **THE LOW COUNTRIES**.

All cargo boats coming into Perth harbour have to use a **PILOT** to help them navigate the river between **DUNDEE** and **PERTH**.

It is designed to **TOW, PUSH, DREDGE, RESCUE** and **CARRY OUT** general harbour maintenance roles.

It is **13M** long.

BOATS ON THE TAY

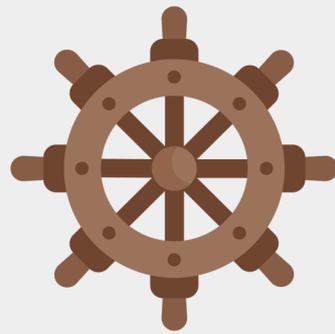


PLEASURE STEAMER AT BRIDGE OF EARN

From the late 1800s there were **PLEASURE BOATS** on the Tay. They set off from **DUNDEE** and stopped at **BALMERINO**, **NEWBURGH** and **PERTH**.

Some smaller boats carried passengers up the River Earn to Bridge of Earn. These needed to have a shallow '**DRAUGHT**' and so a number of these were paddle steamers.

BOATS ON THE TAY



WAULKMILL CHAIN FERRY

The ferry at Waulkmill carried people from **STORMONTFIELD** across the Tay to **PERTH**.

In 1891 the ferry **CAPSIZED** and two horses and carts were swept off the boat. The men survived but the horses drowned.

The ferry 'man' from 1921-1928 was in fact a **WOMAN**: May Fenwick. She operated the chain ferry for **SEVEN YEARS**, and after this time she simply rowed passengers across.

The old ferryman's **BOTHY** is still there, along with a copy of the **TABLE OF FARES** charged by the ferryman.

From 1877 it was a **CHAIN FERRY**: the boat was pulled across the river using a **FIXED CHAIN** which stretched across the river.

There was **NO TIMETABLE**: if you wanted to cross from Stormontfield, you went to the ferryman's house and shouted '**BOAT!**' to summon the ferryman. To cross from the other side you had to ring a **BELL**.

The ferry was used until **1964**.



BOAT BUILDER



● John Ferguson

John











...the hull of a boat as an interactive history



WALKMILL FERRY.