

The Somerset Coal Canal was built between 1794 and 1805. Canal barges carried coal along the canal to London. Working families lived on the barges.

This photograph from 1944 shows the cabin on a barge. The cabin is the kitchen, dining room, living room and bedroom – all rolled into one!



Preparing the evening meal in the cabin of a canal boat, 1944

Ministry of Information public domain photograph

Discussion ideas:

1. Spot five things in the photograph that are different from your home
2. Spot five things that are the same as in your home today.
3. What do you think this woman, Mrs Skinner, was thinking?
4. Would you like to live like this? Why? Why not?

This resource is one of a group of resources for KS1, 2 and 3 on the subject of the Somerset Coal Canal and coalfield.

More information from the [Somersetshire Coal Canal Society](http://www.somersetshirecoalcanal.org.uk).

