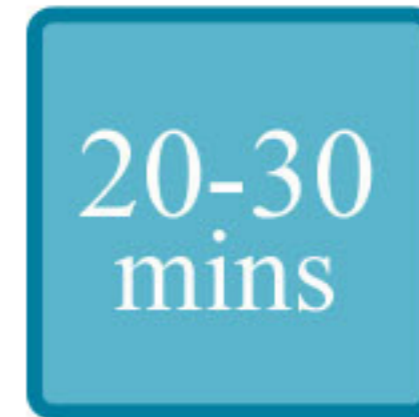


## Learning objectives

- This is an information gathering activity which generates a concise list of pupils' thoughts on the topic of living on the canal.
- Excellent communication activity, promotes thinking and decision making.



## Teacher preparation

The classroom may need to be arranged to facilitate this group activity.

## Equipment & resources

Flip chart sheets or pieces of A3 paper, pens.

## Main activity

1. Divide into four groups.
2. Each group takes a flip chart sheet or piece of A3 paper and chooses a question from the carousel; this is then written at the top.
3. Ask the group to take a few minutes to write down their responses, thoughts and ideas from the original question
4. Once all ideas are written down, each group gives their sheets to another group in rotation (is a good idea to ensure each group has a different colour of pen to allow easy identification of thoughts afterwards).
5. They read the responses of the previous group and discuss whether they agree or disagree. If they agree, they tick. If they disagree, they can justify by writing an explanation.
6. Pupils write their own thoughts down on the issue.
7. Keep passing the sheets round until all the groups have seen all the questions (if time permits).
8. Pass all the sheets back to the teacher and discuss all the ideas that have been recorded.

# Activity: Lagan carousel

If you were living on a barge, having to work every day and never go to school, what do you think your life would be like?

The lighters would take two days to get from Belfast to Lough Neagh. When the railways came what do you think were the biggest challenges to those who depended on the canal for their livelihoods?

Imagine you have travelled back in time and are living in the lock keeper's cottage, what do you think the biggest differences would be to how you live now?

The canal has now been closed for many years; if it were to be reopened, what are the biggest problems you think it would face?