



## Mapping changes

### Introduction

This lesson looks at the history of the Battlebridge Basin and its surroundings over the past 200 years. It traces the changes patterns of land use in the area, from the time when Battlebridge was a village in open countryside, through the construction of the canal and period of rapid urbanisation to the regeneration of the 21st century.

### Learning Objectives

- To understand the reasons that the canal was built, and the function of Battlebridge Basin as a place of transshipment and storage.
- To understand the function of the warehouses along the wharves.
- To explore the complete changes of land use in the area over the past 300 years.

### National Curriculum

#### History

- The pupils will carry out a local history study

#### Geography

- The pupils will interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps
- The pupils will use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key

### Differentiation

- All children will learn that land use in the Battlebridge area has changed over the past 300 years
- Most children will be able to explain what the major changes were.
- Some children will be able to explain the reasons behind the changes, such as the advent of the railways, the decline in commercial use of the canals, the rise of leisure boating, and the regeneration of the King's Cross area.

### Resources

1. Enough copies of the four maps and the tick sheets for each pair or group of children to have a set
2. Clipboards
3. Pencils
4. If possible, maps showing the growth of London since Roman times



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### Key Vocabulary

village  
hamlet  
canal  
warehouse  
factory

### Teaching Activities

If possible, arrange for the students to visit the London Canal Museum and the Battlebridge Basin.

#### 1. Introduction

Ask students how old they think London is. Explain how it started as a small town in Roman times, and has slowly spread across the surrounding land over the past 2000 years. It would be helpful if you could illustrate this with maps. Places that were once out in the country were eventually swallowed up in the town.

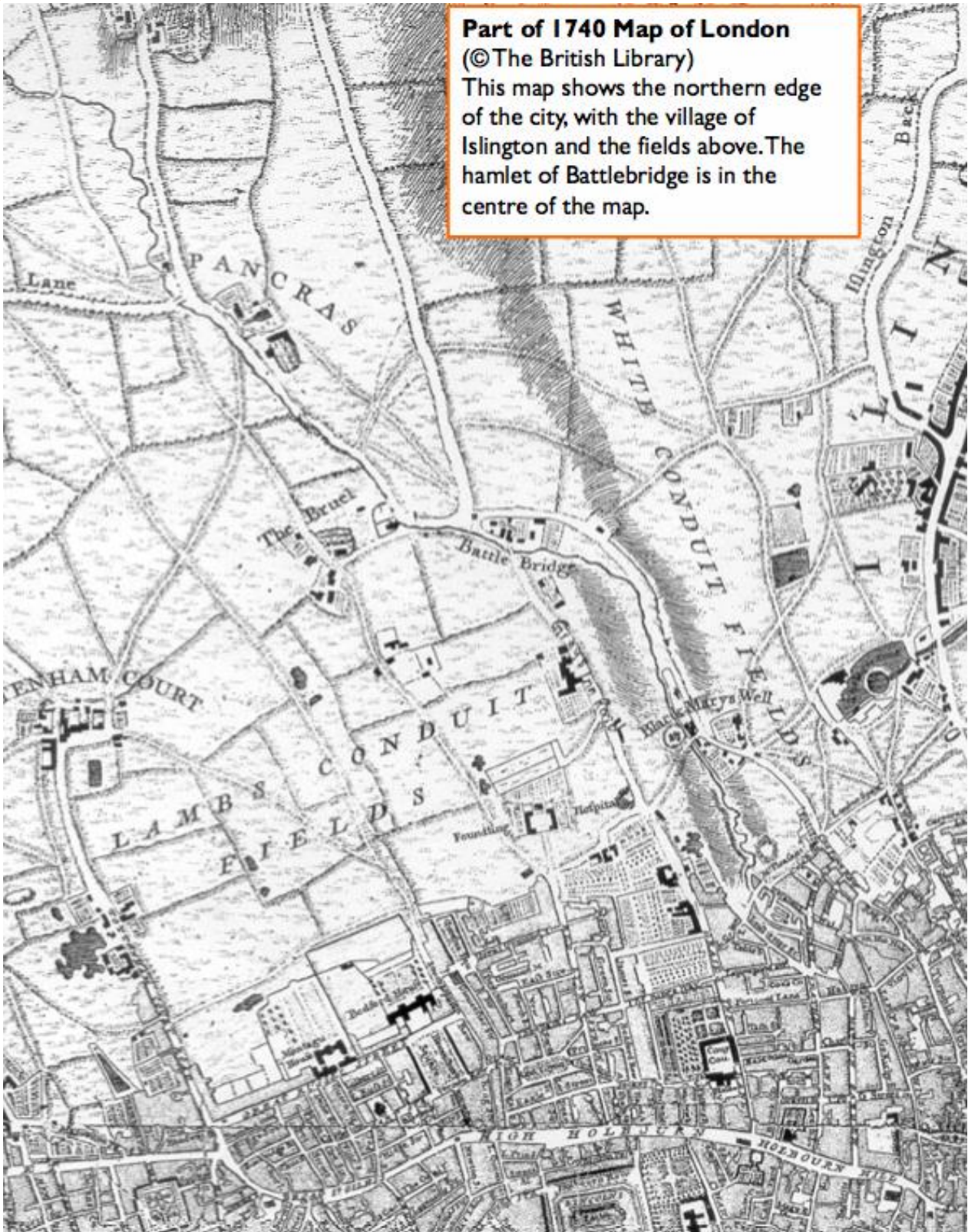
#### 2. Divide class into pairs or small groups. Give each group a set of three maps, one photo, and a tick sheet. Ask them to look carefully at the four items in chronological order.

#### 3. Get the children to put a tick on their sheet against all the items they can find on each map, and a cross against the ones they can't see (Explain that not everything will be seen on every map)

#### 4. Plenary

When all the children have finished, ask them what changes they saw by looking carefully at the maps and photo. Try as far as possible to focus their attention on the canal and basin, and encourage them to think about and discuss the reasons for the changes.

# Mapping changes – Map A



**Part of 1740 Map of London**  
(© The British Library)  
This map shows the northern edge of the city, with the village of Islington and the fields above. The hamlet of Battlebridge is in the centre of the map.

## Mapping changes – Map B



Here is a much smaller part of a map of London, made in 1823. Regent's Canal has just been built around the northern edge of London. The centre of London is to the south of this map. Battlebridge Basin is just below the 'E' and 'G' of the words 'Regent's Canal'. It has a different name.

# Mapping changes – Map C



This is a plan of the Battlebridge Basin in 1891. The Basin is surrounded by roads and buildings.

## Mapping changes – Photo D



This 2005 picture shows the basin more-or-less as it is now (Kings Place has not yet been built)  
(Photo reproduced with kind permission of British Waterways)



# Mapping changes – What can you see?

| 1740s map      |  | 1823 map       |  | 1891 map       |  | Photograph     |  |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| Field          |  | Field          |  | Field          |  | Field          |  |
| Hedge          |  | Hedge          |  | Hedge          |  | Hedge          |  |
| Road           |  | Road           |  | Road           |  | Road           |  |
| Farm           |  | Farm           |  | Farm           |  | Farm           |  |
| Village        |  | Village        |  | Village        |  | Village        |  |
| Canal          |  | Canal          |  | Canal          |  | Canal          |  |
| Canal basin    |  | Canal basin    |  | Canal basin    |  | Canal basin    |  |
| Warehouse      |  | Warehouse      |  | Warehouse      |  | Warehouse      |  |
| Factory        |  | Factory        |  | Factory        |  | Factory        |  |
| Detached house |  | Detached house |  | Detached house |  | Detached house |  |
| Terraced house |  | Terraced house |  | Terraced house |  | Terraced house |  |
| Garden         |  | Garden         |  | Garden         |  | Garden         |  |
| Canal boat     |  | Canal boat     |  | Canal boat     |  | Canal boat     |  |
| Office block   |  | Office block   |  | Office block   |  | Office block   |  |
| Flats          |  | Flats          |  | Flats          |  | Flats          |  |
|                |  |                |  |                |  |                |  |
|                |  |                |  |                |  |                |  |