



Year 5 - History - Summer Term

How did innovation in trade transform the local area?



Quick summary

Droitwich Spa is a town renowned for its natural salt springs. The Romans, recognising the value of this resource, named the town Salinae and established it as a hub of salt production. The extraction of the salt and a growing market led to the creation of trade routes radiating from the town, including the Salt Way (a road linking the towns of the South Midlands down to the Chilterns). In the 18th century, Britain was undergoing an industrial revolution, which meant that there was more trade and the transport networks needed to improve. Innovations in transport, including the development of canals and trains led to faster transport times and increased trading opportunities. It also allowed easier travel for leisure. In the 19th century, John Corbett, known as the “Salt King”, modernised the salt industry in Droitwich, expanding production, creating jobs and investing his wealth back into the town through schools, housing and public buildings.



Vocabulary

Extraction– taking natural resources (like salt) out of the ground so they can be used or sold.

Industrial Revolution– a time when factories, machines and transport improved, helping trade grow.

Manufacture– making goods, usually in factories

Network– a group of connected roads, canals or railways that help move goods and people.

Production– making goods to sell

Route– the way goods travel from one place to another

Transport– moving goods and people from place to place

Schema Strands



Beliefs and Attitudes



Exploration and Settlement



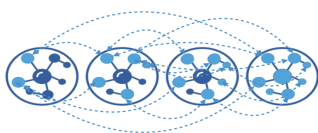
Innovation and Legacy

Year 5

Were the Vikings ruthless invaders or experienced explorers?

Year 6

How has Britain been shaped by ancient civilisations?



Key Takeaways:

- Romans named Droitwich **Salinae** because of its saltworks.
- Salt was the main industry in Droitwich.
- The Salt Way was an important Roman trade route.
- The Industrial Revolution increased demand for better transport.
- The Droitwich Canal (1771) linked saltworks to the River Severn.
- Railways transported goods faster and cheaper than canals.
- Transport improvements helped trade grow rapidly in the 19th century.
- John Corbett, the “Salt King,” modernised salt production and supported Droitwich through philanthropy.
- Roads and the M5 (1962) improved links and supported new industries.

Key Concepts



Cause and Consequence



Change and Continuity



Historical Significance



Similarity and Difference