

Crossing the Sands

Some questions to consider when using photographs and illustrations from the past.

- What is the weather like?
- What natural features can you see in the pictures?
- Are there any animals in the image?
- What time of day do you think it is?
- In what ways might this journey be challenging?

Use a map of Morecambe Bay

- Find Kents Bank on the Northern side, Hest Bank and Bolton le Sands on the Southern Side.
- Find the older market towns of Broughton in Furnace, Millom, Ulverston, Milnthorpe and Lancaster.
- Use the scale on the map to calculate how far the journey is as the crow flies from Kents Bank to Hest Bank and Bolton le Sands.
- Look again at the map and trace the journey from Kents Bank to Bolton le Sands and Hest Bank by road (travelling through Milnthorpe), can you use a piece of string to follow the journey and then use the scale on the map to calculate the distance by road.
- Which journey is shortest?
- What is the difference between the short route and the longer route?
- Can you think of any other possible reasons some people chose to travel across the bay in the past rather than use the roads around the edge of the bay?
- If you were trading goods what benefits might there be of the longer route to the market at Lancaster?

Transport Types

- What forms of travel can you identify?
- How might the types of transport be suited for a journey across the sands?
- Which ways of travelling could carry the most cargo?
- How are the forms of travel powered?
- How are travellers protected from the elements?
- What would be the modern equivalent of any transport types seen?
- Which type of transport do you think would be most expensive?
- Might this journey cause damage to the mode of transport?
- Which form of transport would you prefer to use and why?
- Which might be the fastest ways to travel?

People

- How many people can you see?
- Are people all the same age?
- Do you think some people have a higher status than others?
- How are people dressed?
- Are they prepared for changes in weather condition?
- Are they carrying anything?
- What benefits might there be of people travelling together?
- Do you think anyone will reach the other side quicker than the others?
- If someone was travelling on this journey today how different might their clothing be?
- What knowledge do you think the people on this journey would need?
- Do you think anyone is leading the journey?
- When the people set out on their journey what thoughts might be going round in their heads?

- What reasons for travelling across the sands might different people have?
- How might people feel when their journey across the sands is completed?
- Why do you think these journeys stopped?
- Does this journey involve risk?
- What might the travellers not be looking forward to on their return journey?

Travel Times

These are approximate times for different forms of travel (on good terrain) that people used to cross Morecambe Bay.

1. An average person walking carrying bags = 3 miles per hour (4.8 km per hour)
 2. A fully loaded pack horse = 4 miles per hour with rider (6.44 km per hour)
 3. A fully loaded packhorse = 3 miles per hour with rider walking (4.8 km per hour)
 4. A horse and cart = 6 miles per hour (9.6 km per hour)
 5. A stagecoach with 2 horses = 8 miles per hour (12.8 km per hour)
 6. A Stagecoach with 4 horses = 10 miles per hour (16 km per hour)
- Calculate how long might each journey across the sands might take?
 - What might slow the journey down?
 - Look at each form of transport and consider which type of transport might be most reliable?
 - What possible pros and cons could each type have for a traveller?
 - Look again at the map of Morecambe Bay and think about modern forms of transport – can you identify any ways in which the journey now might be quicker now for those wanting to travel from one side of the bay to the other?

The Hurley Flier is a rescue hovercraft used on the bay. Find out about how hovercrafts work and why they are suited for the terrain of the bay. Why do you think they are not more commonly used for travel?