

# The Victorians



Jobs at the Docklands



The Docklands were extremely important during the Victorian times. Steam power had just begun to be used to power machinery, trains and boats. The steam boats were used to trade materials between countries such as wool, cotton and tea. In the middle of the Victorian era, the docks were expanded for more trade which meant many jobs were available. Also many factories and warehouses were close to the docks so the materials traded didn't have to travel too far when they were taken off the boat. If you look around the docks, some of the buildings from the end of the Victorian period are still standing today.



Look through the slides at some of the jobs that were available to expand and keep the docks running.

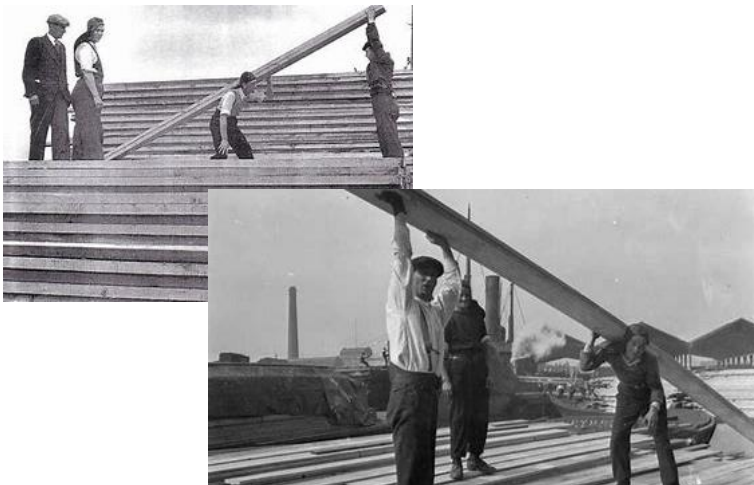
### Lightermen

These were men who carried the materials from large ships to the shore in smaller boats called lights. This was so the material could be sorted, stored and used.



### Deal porters

These were men who carried timber. Often they needed acrobatic skills to be able to carry large pieces of wood on and off ships.

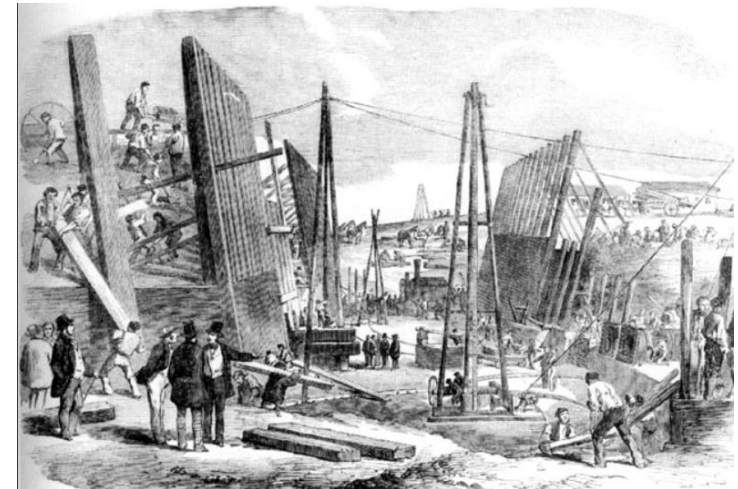


## General dock workers

There was also general dock workers. They would help carry and move materials. They didn't need any special skills so would turn up in the mornings and the foreman (boss) would pick who they wanted to work that day. It wasn't guaranteed you would be working so you could show up and be turned away.

## Boat Engineer

Boat Engineers were at the docks to fix in coming and outgoing boats. They were be travelling for days and weeks at a time therefore it had be certain the boat wouldn't break. They would also be building brand new steam boats, like in the picture.





## Costermonger

A costermonger was a street seller. They would sell seafood, baked goods, clothes and bits of everything. They were often poorer people but sold all kinds of things just from a cart or a basket.

## Warehouse organiser

All the materials that weren't transported to factories had to be stored in warehouses. Many jobs were available making sure the materials were stored correctly and available to be taken when needed.



The docks provided income for many poor Victorian families and helped the industrial revolution in Victorian England, however remember the working conditions were not as good as we have today. There were long hours, overcrowding and very dangerous machines for the workers.