

## Time Changes Everything!

Red Funnel's history is varied and rich.

What can you discover and how could you present it?

### Student Introduction

- ▶ This resource asks you to research information on Red Funnel and their ships, events and activities that have taken place since the company began.
- ▶ Can you work together to research, collate and construct an informative and illustrated timeline?

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### Questions to Consider

Can you identify:

- ✓ vessels that are similar
- ✓ vessels that are different
- ✓ which vessels mark turning points
- ✓ vessels that are part of living memory, and those before that
- ✓ which vessel is the longest
- ✓ which vessel is the shortest
- ✓ which vessel is the fastest
- ✓ which vessel is the slowest

Can you find a link between two or more of these findings?

### Also consider:

- » How have Red Funnel Vessels changed over time
- » Which of the vessels would have been best for people wanting to travel to work?
- » Which is the best vessel?

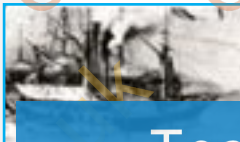
Finally, **construct a timeline** with the information you think is most interesting!



## VESSEL INFORMATION

107542

### PS RUBY



Facts		Description
Built	1841	This is the first paddle steamer (PS) we have a picture of. Paddle steamers did not rely on the wind to get them where they were going.
Weight	103 tonnes	
Length	35 metres	
Width	5 metres	
No. of passengers	100	This meant that they could work to a timetable.
Speed	3 knots	

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### PS BALMORAL

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Facts		Description
Built	1900	As you can see by comparing it to the cliffs in the background the Balmoral was a big paddle steamer. Even so it was still crammed with passengers in a way that is not allowed today.
Weight	473 tonnes	
Length	72 metres	
Width	11 metres	
No. of passengers	1033	
Speed	19 knots	
Crossing time	40 minutes	

### TS MV MEDINA III



Facts		Description
Built	1931	The Medina was the first motor vessel (MV) to have propellers at the rear like boats today.
Weight	688 tonnes	
Length	43 metres	It was shorter than PS Balmoral, but none of the deck was taken up with the paddles.
Width	8 metres	
No. of passengers	400	She had space for 10 cars that had to be lifted on to the deck. This took a long time.
Speed	16 knots	
Crossing time	60 minutes	



## VESSEL INFORMATION

107542

### TS MV NORRIS CASTLE II



Facts		Description
Built	1942	This ferry was built to carry tanks on D-Day. It only had one ramp so if you drove on you had to reverse off. Then because so much of the space was taken by cars there was much less for passengers.
Weight	473 tonnes	
Length	54 metres	
Width	11 metres	
No. of passengers	250 (30 cars)	
Speed	10 knots	
Crossing time	20 minutes	

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### SHEARWATER



Facts		Description
Built	1969	The hydrofoils were launched to meet the demand for high speed crossings.
Weight	26 tonnes	
Length	18 metres	They only carried passengers but covered the distance in less than half the time.
Width	5 metres	
No. of passengers	54	They were revolutionary and popular with passengers but were unreliable.
Speed	35 knots	
Crossing time	23 minutes	

### RED JET 1



Facts		Description
Built	1991	These catamarans replaced the hydrofoils.
Weight	168 tonnes	
Length	32 metres	They have two hulls and this makes them more stable and gives a large deck to carry passengers.
Width	8 metres	
No. of passengers	138	Red Jets are powered by taking in water and forcing it out the rear of the vessel at high pressure.
Speed	33 knots	
Crossing time	22 minutes	

## VESSEL INFORMATION

107542

### MV RED EAGLE



Facts		Description
Built	1996 (refit: 2005)	This is the largest Red Funnel ferry to have ever served the Isle of Wight.  It can carry 220 cars as well as its passengers.
Weight	4075 tonnes	
Length	93 metres	
Width	17 metres	
Speed	14 knots	
Crossing time	50 minutes	

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### COMING SOON: RED JET 6



Facts		Description
Built	2015-2016	What improvements would you expect to see?
Weight		
Length		
Width		
No. of passengers		
Speed		
Crossing time		

## KEY WORDS

107542

**Vessel** Any craft that operates on the water.

**Packet Service** A timetabled journey to move people or goods.

**Paddle Steamer** The first type of vessel to have a motor, it had large paddle wheels at each side. So it was like a giant pedalo powered by steam. This meant that it could run to a timetable because it did not depend on the wind.

**Motor Vessel** These had a propeller at the back that allowed it to move through the water. It could cope with waves much better than a paddle steamer and so be used in rough weather.

**Tug** A small but powerful boat that is used to help large boats move around a harbour.

**Hydrofoil** A vessel that has foils or wings under the water so that when it moves forward the whole of the hull lifts out of the water. This allows it to move much faster

**Catamaran** A vessel that has two hulls. These are wider than normal vessels so are great for carrying lots of passengers

**Hovercraft** A vessel that has propellers to push air below the deck so that it sits on a cushion of air. It can travel over any surface that is not too deep.

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**Yacht** Vessel moved by the wind in its sails.

**Deck** The word for floor on a boat.

**Hull** The part of the vessel that is in the water.

**Port hole** The word used for a round window on a ship. The most important thing about it is that it does not let water in.

**Galley** The word for kitchen on a vessel.

**Excursion** You get on and off the vessel at the same place. The enjoyment is being on the boat for the day to see the sights and enjoy the food.

**Commuter** Someone who lives in one town but works in a different one and so has to travel between the two regularly.

## HISTORICAL ROUTES

- ▶ In addition to the scheduled packet services between Southampton and Cowes, Red Funnel also operated a wide variety of popular excursions.
- ▶ The map from the early 1900's (on the next page) shows many of the popular steamer excursions along the South Coast which ran until the late 1930's.
- ▶ The Company's lengthy name perfectly illustrates the choice of trips available.





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## RED FUNNEL TIMELINE

### KEY



Local Events  
Red Funnel Events  
National Events

- 1820 George Ward and William Fitzhugh of Cowes started the **Isle of Wight Royal Mail Steam Packet Company**. This was the first regular service between Cowes and Southampton to use steam ships. It would take 115 years for the Company to adopt a simpler name: Red Funnel.
- 1821 Ryde population had risen to 3000 from 600 in 25 years. This was because Ryde Pier made the town the main route to the Island.
- 1845 Queen Victoria bought the Osborne Estate for holidays and to spend time with her family. This made the Isle of Wight the centre of the social life of the very rich and the number of visitors increased a lot. So more ferries were needed.
- 1851 Population of the Isle of Wight was 45 640. With the encouragement of Prince Albert the first America's Cup Race was held. This gave sailing and all things connected with the sea the Royal seal of approval.

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- 1861 Prince Albert died and Victoria fled to Osborne House so the Island was even more connected with Royalty.
- 1862 First railway line opened between Cowes and Newport.
- 1864 Railway opened between Ryde St. John's and Shanklin.
- 1868 The Company bought the **Cowes Floating Bridge Company** to link East and West Cowes.
- 1885 The Company bought two tugs and since then this has been a big part in its success.
- 1900 It was reported that there were just twenty cars on Island roads.
- 1901 Queen Victoria died.  
The population of the Isle of Wight was 85 000.
- 1908 The Company bought **The Bournemouth & South Coast Steam Packets Ltd** so that it could run excursion trips.
- 1912 *SS Titanic*, the pride of the White Star Line, left from Southampton assisted by the Company's tugs, on her fateful maiden voyage across the North Atlantic.
- 1914 – 1918 World War One  
Many of The Company's vessels are taken by the Government for war work. The number of holiday makers on the Island fell during the war.
- 1921 Population of the Isle of Wight was 94,000.
- 1923 **Southern Railway** take over Island rail companies.
- 1931 *MV Medina III* bought it was the first vessel to have a propeller rather than paddle wheels. Vessels with propellers can work in stormier seas.
- 1933 A high speed service was started. Each vessel only carried eleven passengers. It was stopped in 1938 because it did not make enough money.

1935 The famous red funnel and black top was used on all vessels and this led to the new name: **Red Funnel**.

1936 *PS Gracie Fields* is the last paddle steamer to be built for the Company.

1939 – 1945 World War Two

A lot of the Company's vessels were again taken by the government for war work. The number of holiday makers on the Isle fell during the war.

1950's The number of people taking holidays on the Isle of Wight increases significantly.

1959 The motor vessel, *Carisbrooke Castle*, began service as the first purpose built car ferry. This is because more and more people own their own car.

1968 The *Balmoral II* was taken out of service. This was the last vessel used for excursions.

1969 The Company re-introduced its high-speed service using Italian-built hydrofoils. These were exciting to go on, you almost flew because they went so fast they skimmed on top of the water.

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1980s The price of houses increased nationally. This made houses on the Isle of Wight seem cheap so more people began commuting across the Solent to work.

1991 Hi-Speed catamarans were bought and the hydrofoils were retired from service. The catamarans were larger, more stable and more reliable than the hydrofoils. They carry only passengers but are very quick.

1992 **Red Funnel Holidays** is created to help develop tourism on the Isle of Wight.

1994 *MV Red Falcon* and *MV Red Osprey* entered service.

2001 Population of the Isle of Wight is now 117 000.

2002 The Isle of Wight Pop Festival was started again and Red Funnel was perfectly placed to provide a lot of the transport.

2003 *Red Jet 4* was launched in Cowes by Dame Ellen MacArthur on 18th June. This continued the link between the Isle of Wight and important people in the world of sailing.

2011 The company celebrates its 150th anniversary and commissioned Keith Adams to write the book 'Red Funnel 150' to mark the occasion.

2014 *Red Falcon* was modernised so that it could carry more cars and more passengers.



### Introduction

Every company, country, even football teams want to be recognised. Countries do it with flags and football teams with strips. A livery is the use of the same colours and patterns. The purpose is to allow people to work out who owns the boat from a distance.



In the last 195 years Red Funnel have had a number of liveries. This is partly because of the length of time and partly because the Company bought other shipping companies and so inherited their liveries.

A logo is a picture or symbol to represent the company. The logo is used in addition to the livery.

On your trip round the island make a note of liveries used by other companies and attractions (colour schemes) and logos (pictures to represent the company).

TIP - you could photograph them on your phone!

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- 1900-1908** The excursion vessels *Lorna Doone*, *Balmoral* and *Bournemouth Queen* were painted all white, funnels and all.
- 1909-1914** The Company bought the **Bournemouth & South Coast Steam Packets Company** and used its vessels for excursion trips but kept the livery they came with red funnels and black tops. The vessels already owned by the Company for excursion trips, the *Lorna Doone*, *Balmoral* and the *Bournemouth Queen* continued to be white. The vessels used for the packet service still had cream funnels, black hulls, red bottoms.
- 1919-1930** After the war all excursion vessels were repainted with white funnels. The packet vessels had cream coloured funnels.
- 1931** Black tops added to all the funnels.
- 1932-1934** All vessels were given white funnels with black tops.
- 1935** All funnels become red with black tops. The hull of the vessels above the waterline cream, black hulls. This made it sensible to rebrand the Company as **Red Funnel**.
- 1969** A Company logo was designed for the arrival of the new hydrofoils and was added to the other vessels in time.
- 1974** "Red Funnel Services" was painted in large letters on the sides of the vehicle ferries.
- 1985** Cream above the water, with red lines between two narrow white lines at the top of the black hull.
- 1991** Black bottoms, red hulls, white superstructure, grey side band, red Solent logo and lettering.
- 1994** New corporate logo and colour scheme of red funnels, black tops, red hulls, white superstructure, grey side band, black logo lettering that included the strap line "The Original Isle of Wight Ferries".

