

The Newham Archives and Local Studies Library has many stories about people's lives.

Read the story and answer the questions.

Story from the archive

Jam Making by Florence Buchan

Extract from the Women's Dreadnought 1915

Most people do not realise that some of the women in the jam trade are employed at truck and barge work. It sounds like men's work, and barge work especially is very hard. It takes eight girls two or three steady days work to unload the whole of a barge.

When we are unstacking the jam pots and jars, and putting them into boxes and baskets down in the hold, there is so little room to move that we get very stiff and sore. The boxes and baskets are lowered down in the hold by a crane, and when we have filled a certain number of them, they are put on to boards or cradles. The boards are lowered on to a trolley, which when filled, is pushed by a young man to the edge of a shoot. We girls throw water on to the shoot to make it slippery and then lift the boxes off.

Girls who are employed at barge work only earn about 13s. a week. (13s. is about 84p in today's money)

True or False.

1. Only men do truck and barge work.

True

False

2. Barge work is hard.

True

False

3. You can unload the whole of a barge in a day.

True

False

4. The women get stiff and sore.

True

False

5. You can earn good money at barge work.

True

False

Fill in the missing words.

6. Women in the j _ _ _ trade are employed at truck and b _ _ _ _ _ work.

7. Barge work especially is very h _ _ _ .

8. The b _ _ _ _ _ and baskets are lowered down in the hold by a c _ _ _ _ _.

9. We girls throw w _ _ _ _ _ on to the shoots.

Think about a member of your family who has worked hard.
Finish the following sentences.

My worked hard as a

She/He had to