



Falkirk Canals Classroom



Learning Activities for
Primary Schools



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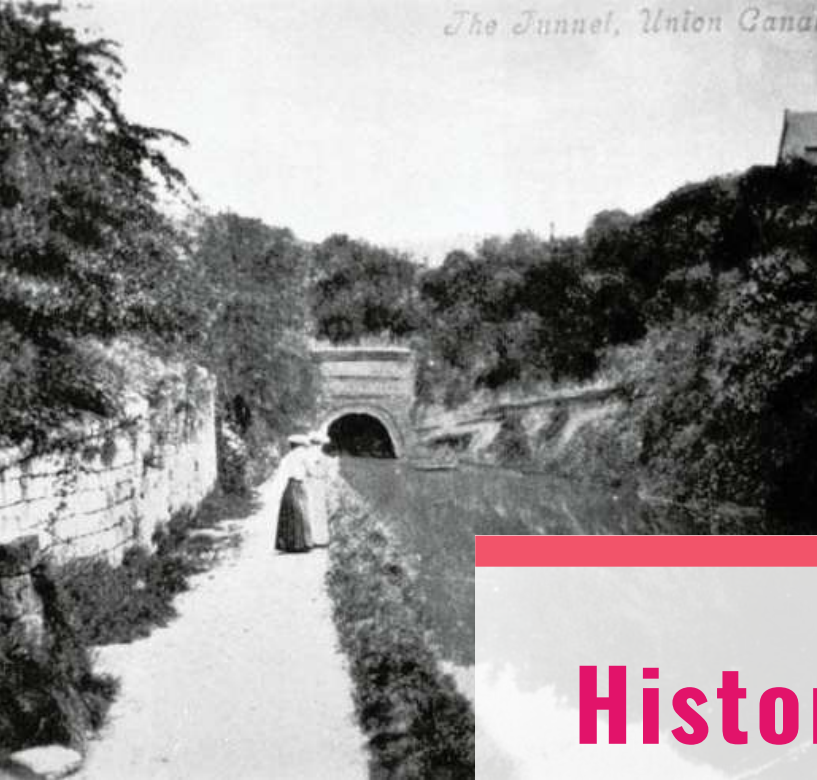


Introduction: How to use the Falkirk Canals Classroom

This resource pack contains learning activities for primary years covering the history and heritage of Falkirk's canals.

Each section corresponds to key curriculum areas and includes consideration of the natural, ecological, geographical and social aspects of learning on and about the canals.

Each section contains an information sheet and a worksheet, for use in class or when visiting the canal.

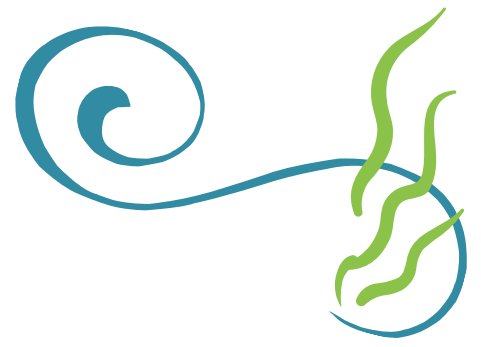


History and the Canals



Falkirk's canals have a unique place in the history of canal-building during the Industrial Age across Scotland, Great Britain, and Ireland. In this section, students will learn about the construction of Falkirk's canals, and their phases of development from the Georgian era to the modern day.

A Brief History of the Canals



Opening of the Canal

In 1790 the Forth & Clyde Canal opened. It moved heavy industry, coal, iron and clay from factories in Falkirk and the Central Belt to the docks to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The canals' banks hosted 60 different foundries including an explosives factory and a vinegar factory. It was a crucial lifeline to the central belt of Scotland. In 1822, this canal was joined by the Union Canal, which linked the line with Edinburgh.

A time of change

In 1867 the canal was bought by the Caledonian Railway company. The progress of steam locomotives and the investment in the railway meant that trains could move more goods than boats, and the canals became obsolete. The canals closed for good in the 1960s, after decades of neglect.



Twenty-first century

In 2001 the canals reopened as part of the Millennium link, which was part of the largest canal restoration in the UK. Now, the canals have transformed from an industrial area to a brilliant green space with wildlife, leisure activities, and industry once more.

Timeline

of the **Forth & Clyde Canal** and the **Union Canal**

1763

Civil Engineer John Smeaton surveys a route for the Forth & Clyde Canal

1768 to 1785

Approval is given by Parliament for the canal to be built, but 17 years of funding problems cause huge delays

1790

Forth & Clyde Canal is officially opened

1793

The Union Canal is conceived as a direct route for the people of Edinburgh to access cheap sources of coal from the West

1813

A route for the Canal is designed to link this canal to the Forth & Clyde Canal

1822

Only 4 years after construction begins, the Union Canal officially opens

1963

Forth & Clyde Canal closes as the canals are no longer used or looked after at this point

1960s

The lock flight that linked the Union Canal with the Forth & Clyde Canal is closed off. Soon after, in 1965, the Union Canal is formally closed

2001

The two canals of Falkirk are reopened as part of the £83m Millennium Link – the largest canal restoration project anywhere in Britain

2002

The Falkirk Wheel reconnects the Forth & Clyde and Union canals for the first time in over 70 years

History

You will learn about how Falkirk's canals came to be - create a fun timeline for either the Union canal, or the Forth and Clyde canal!



Look



- Look up the 'Heritage' page of the Scottish Canals website
- Look at Union Canal and Forth & Clyde Canal heritage timelines (these are also shown earlier in this booklet)
- Look around while beside the canal for any other clues from the past

Talk



- Talk about why canals became important in the first place - what were they used for?
- Talk about the history of which canal feature you want to focus on
- Talk about anything you notice while beside the canal which might be older than you

Make



- Make a timeline of events for the canals using the Scottish Canals website and information in this section
- Make a storyboard of your timeline, showing who used the canals and what they did on them
- Write any historical notes or clues in your scrap book while walking beside the canal



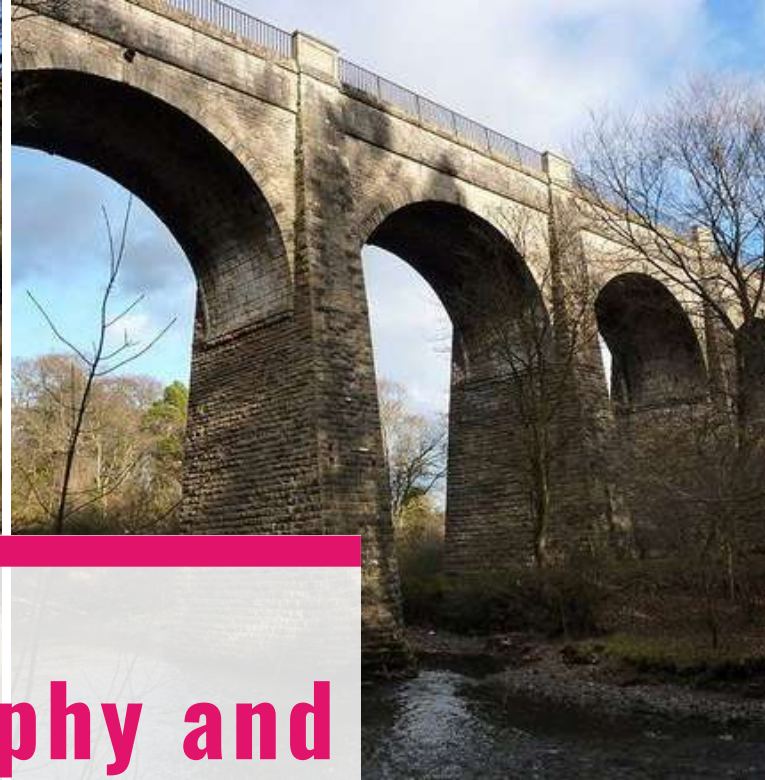
Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet.

Ask your teacher tick off your achievements in **History**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
History	SOC 0-02a	I can make a personal link to the past by exploring items or images connected with important individuals or special events in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>
History	SOC 1-02a	By exploring places, investigating artefacts and locating them in time, I have developed an awareness of the ways we remember and preserve Scotland's history.	<input type="checkbox"/>
History	SOC 2-02a	I can interpret historical evidence from a range of periods to help to build a picture of Scotland's heritage and my sense of chronology.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Geography and the Canals



Geography plays a big part in making Falkirk's canals and the special places along them such well-known destinations for visitors from around the world. In this section, students will look at the canals' geographical features, and at what different parts of the canal were used for.

Scotland's Canals

The canals in Scotland can be seen on this map.

These canals are:

- the Forth and Clyde Canal
- the Union Canal
- the Caledonian Canal
- the Crinan Canal
- the Monkland Canal

Scotland's canal network covers 137 miles.



Monkland Canal

Monkland Canal was built to transport coal from the mines around Monklands to Glasgow. It opened in sections from 1771 and was designed by James Watt. It is over 12 miles long. By 1850, 1 million tonnes of coal had been transported along the canal.

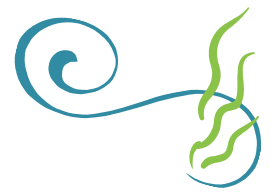
Crinan Canal

Crinan Canal starts at Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne and ends at Crinan on the Sound of Jura. It opened in 1809 and was designed by John Rennie. It is 9 miles long. There are 15 locks on the Crinan Canal and it reaches a height of almost 20 metres above sea level. Queen Victoria travelled along the Crinan Canal on a Scottish holiday in 1847.



Caledonian Canal

The Caledonian Canal runs between Corpach, near Fort William and Inverness. The canal was opened in 1822 and is 60 miles long. It was built using plans created by Thomas Telford. Parts of this canal route are natural Scottish lochs like Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Ness. This canal route meant that ships did not have to navigate the dangerous waters of the Pentland Firth at the far north of Scotland.



Mini Activity

Here is a map of the Falkirk canals areas - See if you can spot these local landmarks on it. You could also try adding your own landmarks, like your house, or your school. You could also try to add your own landmarks to the map, like your house, your school etc



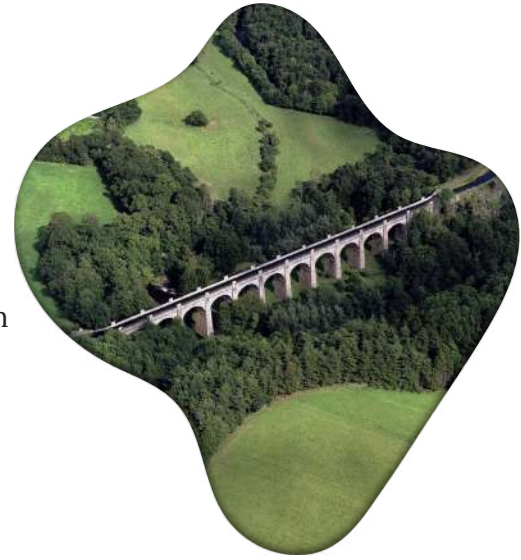
CLICK HERE

for an interactive version

Interesting Landmarks along Falkirk's Canals

Avon Aqueduct

The Avon Aqueduct is like a bridge for water that carries the Union Canal over the River Avon near Linlithgow. It opened in 1822 and was designed by Hugh Baird. Mr Baird got advice from Thomas Telford, who was a very famous engineer of road and canal projects. It is 26 metres high, 250 metres long and has 12 arches. There are stone towpaths 1.2 metres wide along each side. It is the longest and tallest aqueduct in Scotland, and the second-longest in Britain, after the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct in Wales. It can be viewed from Muiravonside Country Park.

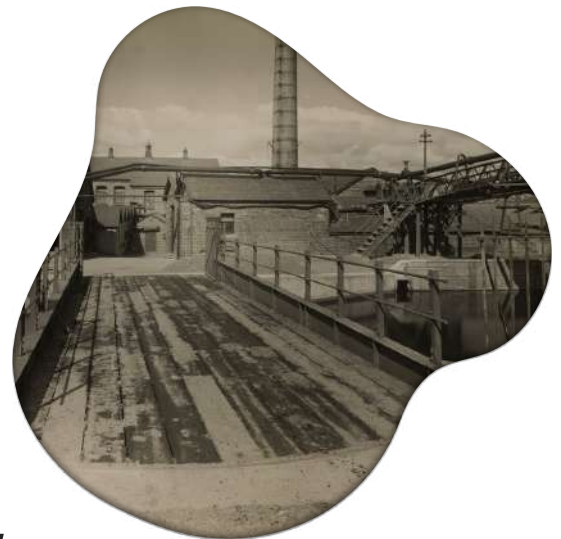


Polmont Basin

From the canal basin at Polmont there is a disused tunnel connected to Quarry Brae in Brightons, where there was a sandstone quarry. Stone was brought through the tunnel to the basin then loaded onto barges and taken into Edinburgh for the New Town's buildings. Brightons Church is also made from this sandstone. The quarry is now Laurie Park (also known as Quarry Park) after Alexander Laurie the quarry owner.

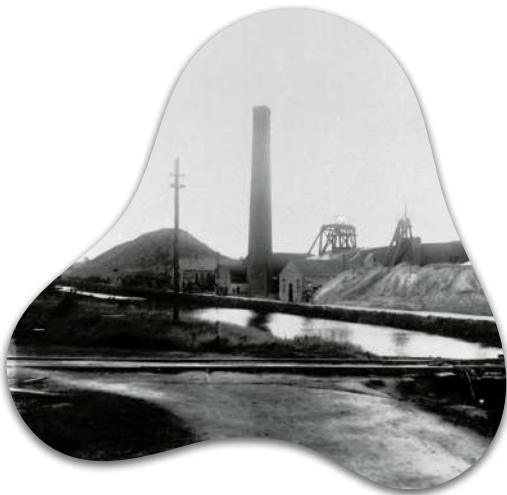
Nobel Westquarter Chemical Works

The old swing bridge on the canal used to link two parts of Alfred Nobel's chemical factory. There was an explosives factory right here on the banks of the canal. In 1876 Nobel began to manufacture detonators at the Westquarter Factory with only six workers. By WWII the factory employed 1700 people, over 3 shifts and produced 73 million detonators!



Redding Colliery

Redding Colliery was a place where coal was produced for the area, and lots of people from the local area worked there. The canal played a huge part in making this happen and in transporting it over 20 miles to the city of Edinburgh. One of Scotland's worst pit disasters happened at Redding pit no.23 on the north bank of the canal. On 25 September 1923 sixty-six men were trapped underground when water burst through into the mine from old flooded workings.



Bridge 62 Bantaskin Bridge

Bantaskin Bridge is one of many bridges along the Union Canal. It is famous however for its great viewing point, where the canal opens up before turning south-east and under the Dark Tunnel towards Hallglen. It is a nice area with lots of trees and nature all around. As you can see from the photo, it was a popular place to enjoy the canal for many years.

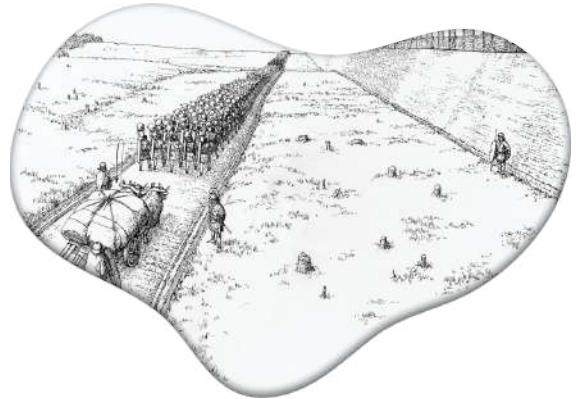


Seagull Trust Boathouse, Bantaskin

This boathouse and reception centre was opened in 1992 by the Seagull Trust. The trust operates the Govan Seagull, a boat specifically designed for people with disabilities. The boat is crewed entirely by trained volunteers who offer relaxing cruises throughout the season. The centre provides secure accommodation for the Trust's boat and comfortable reception facilities for visitors.

The Antonine Wall

From the canal towpath, it's possible to walk along stretches of the Roman Empire's Antonine Wall. It is one of only five World Heritage Sites in Scotland and a lasting marker within our landscape of the power and reach of the Roman Empire. It ran for over 60 km from Bo'ness on the River Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde. It is one of only three barriers that the Romans left along their entire borders and is the most northerly and most complex frontier they ever built.



Rough Castle

Rough Castle is the best-preserved Roman fort along the Antonine Wall and offers great views of the surviving Antonine Wall ditch. People can access this by following signs from the Falkirk Wheel. It also has the tallest portion of the rampart. There are really clear sections of the Wall's defences, ditches and gateways and the only known examples of lilia - defensive pits - to the north of the Wall.

The Falkirk Tunnel

The Falkirk Tunnel is situated at the back of Falkirk High Station. It is the canal's link between Hallglen and Falkirk and is well known locally as 'The Dark Tunnel'.

It feels like a cave, with a rough stone interior that was blasted out by “navvies” (canal diggers) around 200 years ago.

It is **630 meters long** and is very dark, so cycling or jogging through the tunnel is actively discouraged - the towpath is cobbled, slippery, has puddles and is only 5 feet wide. Walking or pushing your bike through it is safer and can also give you more time to appreciate the unique environment of the tunnel.

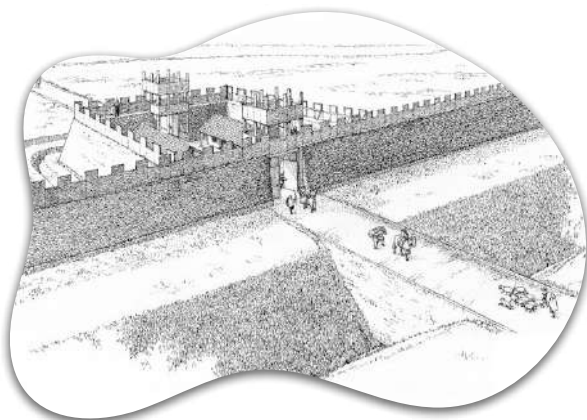


Interesting facts

The canal was meant to be an overland route - but **William Forbes**, the owner of **Callendar House**, said it would ruin his view, so successfully campaigned to have it diverted under Prospect Hill. Construction of the tunnel took place between 1818 and 1822.

When the tunnel first opened there was such a thing as **passenger canal boats**. Some people were afraid to travel through the tunnel so horse transport was provided so that they could get off the boat and meet it at the other end.

There is a spooky association with **Burke and Hare**, the Victorian serial killers who sold their victims' bodies to anatomists in 1800s **Edinburgh**. The two men had moved from Ireland to Scotland to work on the canal and the construction of the tunnel.



Tamfourhill Road Roman Camp

Just east of the Falkirk Wheel is the best-preserved section of the Antonine Wall ditch. The ditch has been preserved to almost its original dimensions, giving the best impression of how it will have looked in Roman times. In an open field between the Union Canal and Tamfourhill Wood there is a temporary Roman camp which can only be seen from aerial photographs. This is an impression of how it would have looked.

Lock 16

The photo is a view of Lock 16 from 1970. It is quite famous in the area as a place where a lot of people lived, worked and travelled over many years. This section of the Forth & Clyde Canal stopped being used by boats in 1962. The link between this and the Union had gone in the 1930s. Both canals were restored from the mid-1990s as the Millennium Link, with a new connection to the west in the form of the Falkirk Wheel.



The Kelpies

The Kelpies are 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures next to the canal between Falkirk and Grangemouth. They weigh 300 tonnes each and stand next to a new extension to the Forth and Clyde Canal, near the River Carron. This is in The Helix, a parkland project built to connect 16 communities in the Falkirk Council Area of Scotland.

The sculptures were designed by sculptor Andy Scott and were completed in October 2013. The Kelpies are a monument to horse-powered heritage across Scotland and were opened to the public in April 2014.



The canal extension reconnects the Forth and Clyde Canal with the River Forth and improves navigation between the East and West of Scotland. The Kelpies represent the role of the tow horse in Scottish industries and economies, pulling the wagons, ploughs, barges, and coal ships that shaped Falkirk's history and geography as a heavy industrial area. During the first year following the opening, nearly one million people visited the sculptures.



Geography

You will investigate a map of Falkirk and point out various landmarks, as well as make your own map of an area at the canal



Look



- Look at the interactive map on page 12. Look at where your school and home is in relation to the map, and write down what landmarks are around them
- Look at the landmarks on the canal. What can they tell us about how the canal was used? Was it a busy place? Why did people go there?

Talk



- Talk about where all your favourite things to do are in Falkirk
- Talk about any other landmarks you know of that are on or near the canals. These can be well-known, or places that are special to you that you would like people to know about
- Talk about why the canal might be good for different activities, such as travelling, walking, and transporting goods.

Make



- Make a list of famous landmarks at/near the canal
- Make a sketch of one of the famous landmarks in your scrapbook page
- Using your scrapbook page, sketch some maps, with symbols and a key, of an area near the canal you have been to.



Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet.

Have your teacher tick off your achievements in **Geography**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Geography	SOC 0-15a	I am aware that different types of evidence can help me to find out about the world around me.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geography	SOC 1-14a	Through activities in my local area, I have developed my mental map and sense of place. I can create and use maps of the area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geography	SOC 2-14a	To extend my mental map and sense of place, I can interpret information from different types of maps and am beginning to locate key features within Scotland, UK, Europe or the wider world.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Art and the Canals



The natural beauty, picturesque landscapes and wide variety of wildlife make the canal a source of inspiration for creating art. The following section will outline activities that will engage pupils with the canal as they discover and create their own artistic projects.

Canal Art

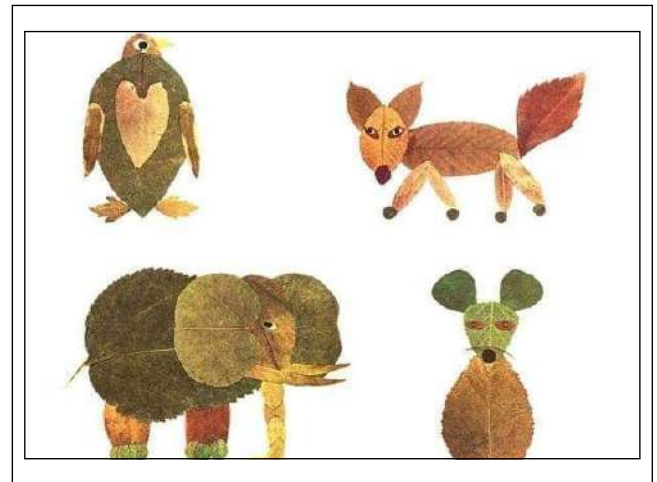
To help make your own Falkirk Canal Art, think about these questions before deciding what to do



What do you see at the Falkirk's Canals? – make sure to look at the colours and the reflections



What could you safely collect to make your Falkirk Canal Art?



What would you like your finished Canal Art to look like?

Q&A with local artist Heather Cumming

What is your profession?

I'm a creative designer specialising in branding, graphic design and illustration, although I also get involved in art initiatives such as this.

What is the artwork called?

Full Circle.



What does the artwork represent?

Full Circle represents the arcs of the Falkirk Wheel and their reflection in the water. The choice of colours reflect the lighting on the wheel at night, but also represents the ideas of hope and optimism.

Why do you make this type of art?

The artwork is part of the Canal Encounters programme. A month long trail and series of activities between the Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel. The brief was to create something that celebrates the history and ecology of the canal.

What inspired you to make this piece?

My installation is based on the Falkirk Wheel which is an important historic milestone in the canals history.

What connection does this have to Falkirk Canals?

It represents the ecology of the canal and the relationship between the structure of the Falkirk Wheel and the environment of the canal.

What might you recommend young people to do if they're inspired to make art about Falkirk Canals?

Go for it! Explore different themes around the canal and play with a variety of mediums to find what best represents your ideas.





Art

You will create a piece of art about your trip to the canal.



Look



- Look closely at the Andy Goldsworthy artwork below
- Look at other images of artwork using nature in this booklet, and write down what you like about them
- Look closely at the nature around you on the canal paths

Talk



- Talk about the Andy Goldsworthy artwork – what do you see? Do you like it? What do you like about it?
- Talk about what plants and animals you might see along the canal – and talk about how you could use them in your own artwork
- Talk about what you should and should not collect from nature – make a list as you go

Make



- As you collect items for your artwork, use the Scrapbook page to keep or draw pictures of what you find
- Make a poster or sculpture back in the classroom with what you collected or sketched



Scrapbook



**Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet.
Have your teacher tick off your achievements in Art**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Art	EXA 0-05a	Inspired by a range of stimuli, I can express and communicate my ideas, thoughts and feelings through activities within art and design	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art	EXA 1-05a	Inspired by a range of stimuli, I can express and communicate my ideas, thoughts and feelings through activities within art and design.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art	EXA 2-05a	Inspired by a range of stimuli, I can express and communicate my ideas, thoughts and feelings through activities within art and design	<input type="checkbox"/>

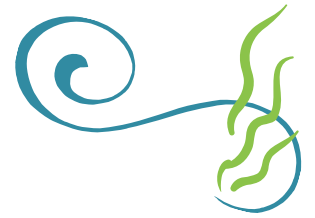


Health and Wellbeing on the Canals



Falkirk Canal areas are the perfect place to keep fit! This section will explore different ways students can enjoy the canals recreationally, and how they can get active with friends and family in these spaces.

Activities on the Canal



Jog



Walk



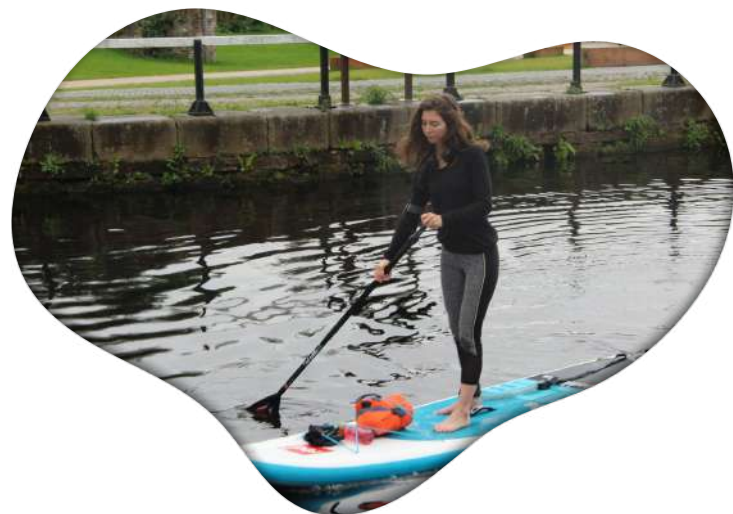
Dog Walk



Cycle



Paddleboard





Canoe



Litter Picking



Boating

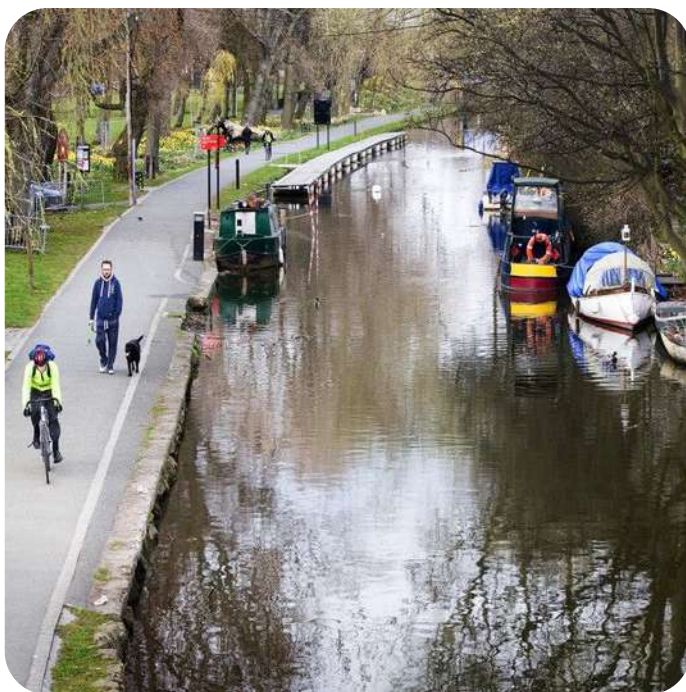


Bird Spotting



Sometimes people even combine more than one activity at the time!

Have a look to see how many Health and Well-being activities can take place all at one time along the same area of the canal



Health & Wellbeing

You will create something which shows your knowledge and experience of healthy canal journeys and activities in Falkirk



Look



- Look closely at the images in this booklet
- Watch the Scottish Canals video 'Celebrating 20 Years of the Millenium Link'
- Look closely at the journeys and activities taking place around you while at the canal

Talk



- Talk about the journeys and activities taking place in the images and video – What do you see? Do you like them? What do you like about them?
- Talk to a partner or as a class about who has taken part in these before
- Talk as a class about the benefits of taking part in these activities
- Talk about any other activities you would like to take part in, on, or next to, the canal

Make



- While at the canal, use the scrapbook page to make a list or draw activities you see taking place there
- Make a storyboard of a healthy journey you make along Falkirk canals, and who you might meet there

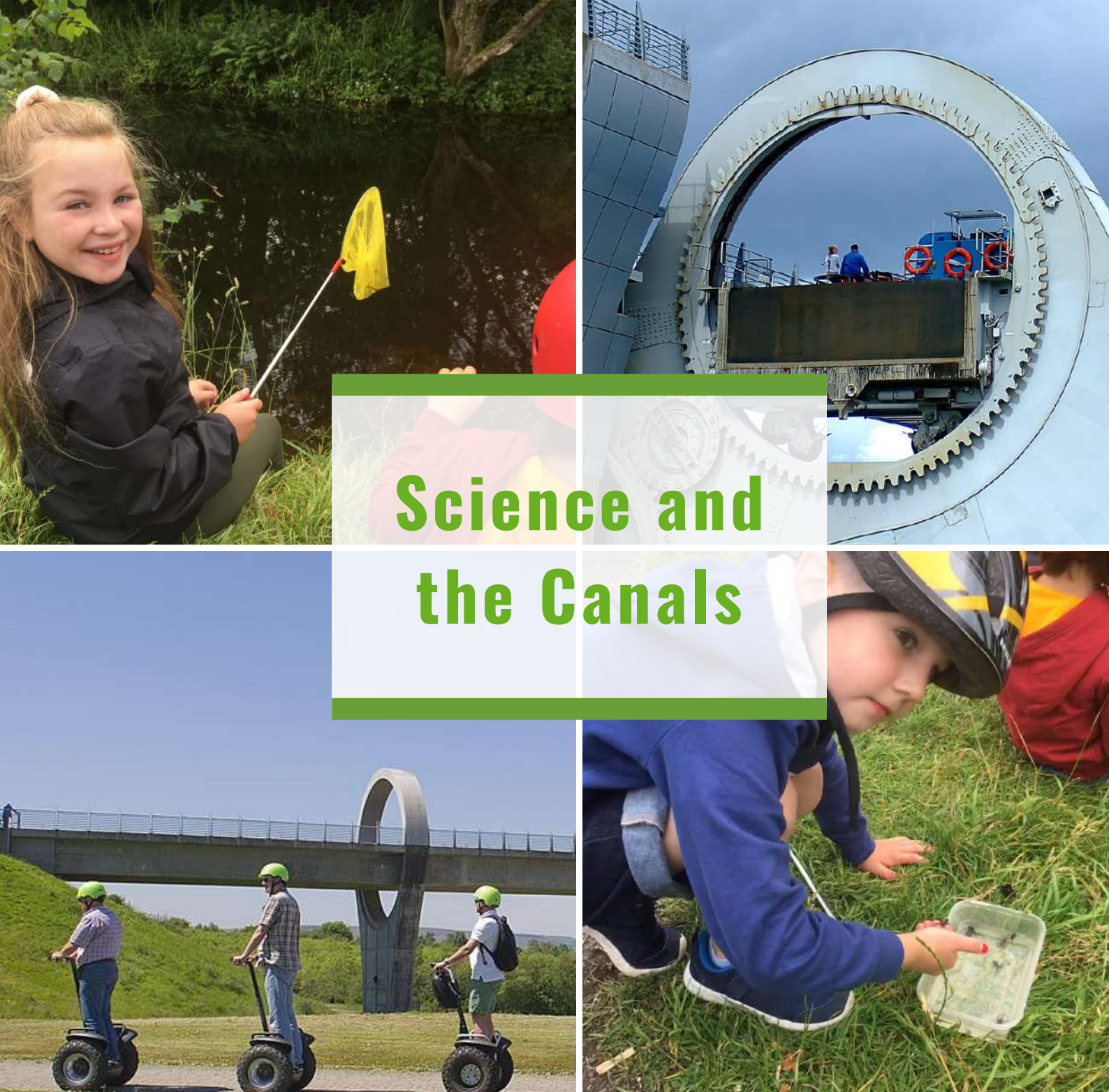


Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet. Have your teacher tick off your achievement in **Health and Wellbeing**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
HWB	HWB 0-25a	I am enjoying daily opportunities to participate in different kinds of energetic play, both outdoors and indoors	<input type="checkbox"/>
HWB	HWB 1-25a	Within and beyond my place of learning I am enjoying daily opportunities to participate in physical activities and sport, making use of available indoor and outdoor space.	<input type="checkbox"/>
HWB	HWB 2-25a	I am experiencing enjoyment and achievement on a daily basis by taking part in different kinds of energetic physical activities of my choosing, including sport and opportunities for outdoor learning, available at my place of learning and in the wider community.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Science is all around us on the Falkirk canals, from the boats that travel along the water, to how the water moves, to the plants and animals that live on and around it. This section will teach students about safety on the canal, as well as the wildlife they might see along it.

Safety on the Canals

The canal is an exciting, vibrant, fun place to learn about science, but it is also very important to be **SAFE**.

S A F E
Stay Away From the Edge

Look at this image & think about which of these activities could be unsafe.



Canal Habitats

Falkirk's canals are home to all kind of plants and wildlife. Nature thrives along the canal - their towpaths create valuable green corridors, connecting various wildlife sites and habitats. This allows animals to move freely, and can bring the heart of the countryside into urban areas.



Towpaths

Falkirk's canal towpaths have developed over the last 50 years as the towing of boats declined. Even the more narrow parts of the towpaths can support a range of animals and plants. Verges are flower-rich and provide food and shelter for a variety of insects and animals.

Canal banks

Falkirk's canal banks, where land meets the water, are particularly valuable for biodiversity, are particularly valuable for biodiversity. These banks provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, such as water birds, dragonflies, frogs and tadpoles, voles and otters.

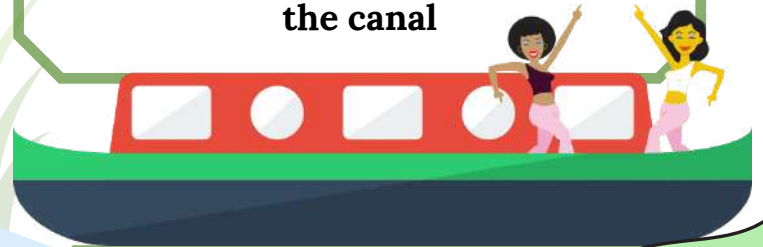


Built structures

Bridges, tunnels, locks, aqueducts, weirs and cottages all provide habitat for wildlife along the canals in Falkirk. The structures support a very diverse range of animals and plants along the canal. Older structures, like the Falkirk Tunnel, can often be home to bats too.

Science

You will create a visual to show others how to stay healthy and be safe near the canals. You will also discover how wildlife depends on the canal



Look



- Look closely at poster examples warning people of danger
- Look closely while near the canal for possible dangers to people's safety – remember all the different ways of travelling on or next to the canal!
- When near the canal, look closely at all the different animal habitats you can see – which ones are there?

Talk



- Talk with a partner about how being near water could be dangerous – what activities could be unsafe, and how could you prevent an accident?
- Talk with a shoulder partner about how the canals are a home for wildlife and nature
- Talk about how you could warn others of these dangers using a poster

Make



- Using Scrapbook page, make a list or draw sketches of dangers you might see at the waterside
- Make a poster or storyboard that shows Canal Dangers, and how to stay safe, or the different wildlife and where they live on the canal
- When next to the canal, use the Scrapbook page to make a list or draw sketches of the different wildlife that lives at the canal



Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet. Have your teacher tick off your achievements in **Science**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Science	SCN 0-12a	I can identify my senses and use them to explore the world around me.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	SCN 1-12b	I have explored my senses and can discuss their reliability and limitations in responding to the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	SCN 2-12a	By investigating some body systems and potential problems which they may develop, I can make informed decisions to help me to maintain my health and wellbeing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	SCN 0-01a	I have observed living things in the environment over time and am becoming aware of how they depend on each other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	SCN 1-01a	I can distinguish between living and non-living things. I can sort living things into groups and explain my decisions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	SCN 2-01a	I can identify and classify examples of living things, past and present, to help me appreciate their diversity. I can relate physical and behavioural characteristics to their survival or extinction.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Maths and the Canals



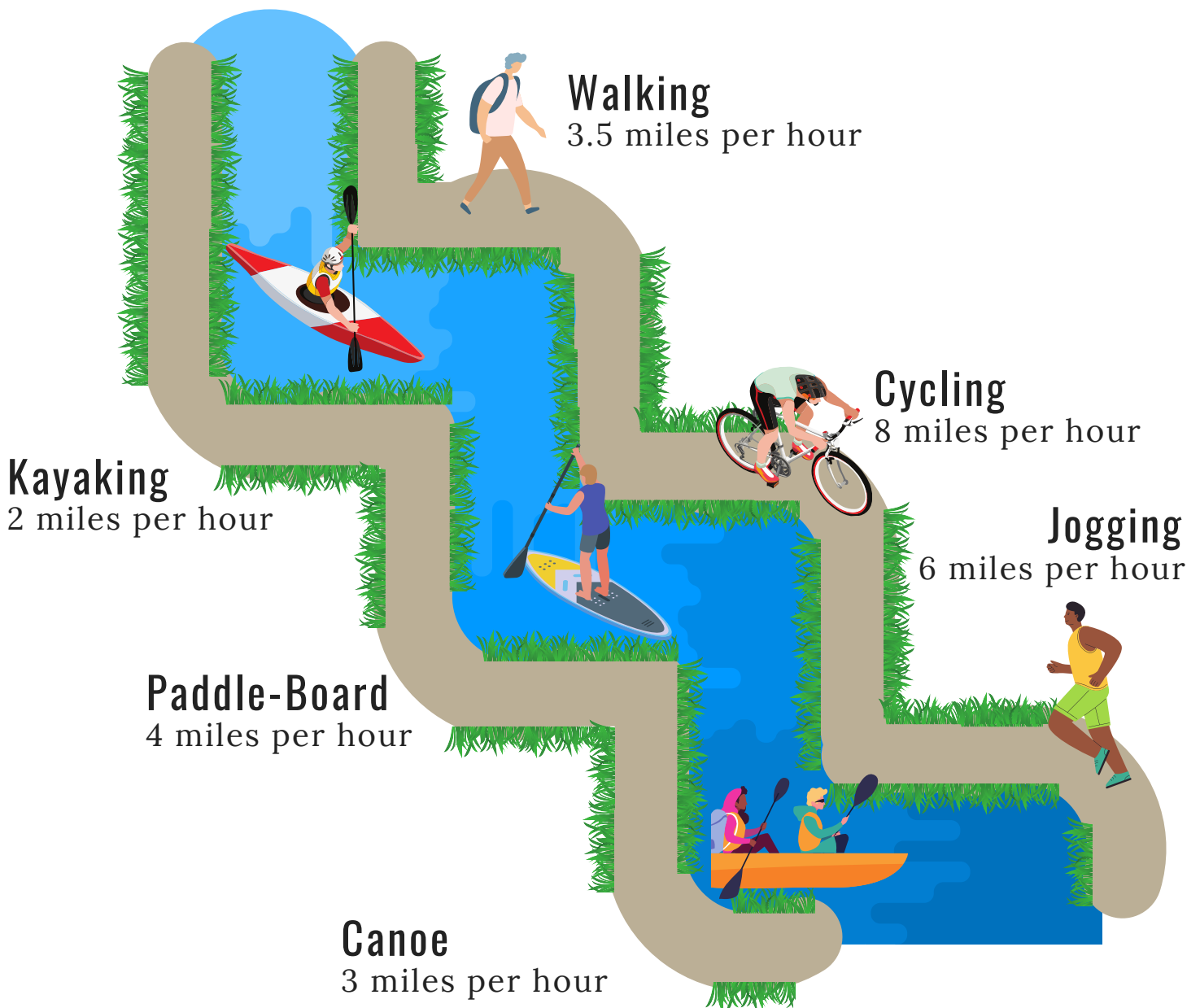
Maths is the building blocks of all structures, particularly man-made ones like the canal. This section will help students use Maths to work out how to travel down the canal and learn about a technological marvel – the Falkirk Wheel.

Travelling on the Canal

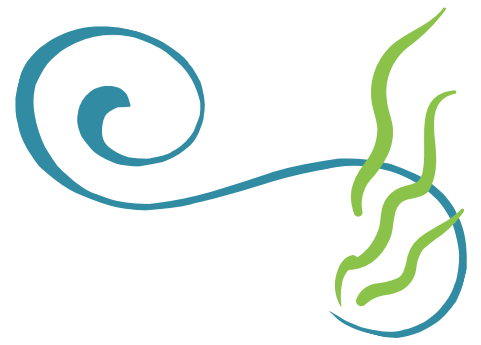
A journey that used to take a whole day – and travelling through 11 locks one by one – now just takes a matter of minutes because of the invention of the Falkirk Wheel.



Here are some examples of the fastest and slowest ways to travel along a canal...



The Falkirk Wheel



What is it?

The Falkirk Wheel is a boat lift. It is the only boat lift of its kind in the world. The Falkirk Wheel connects the Forth and Clyde and Union canals. It replaced the locks that once joined these two canals.

The Falkirk Wheel lifts boats up 24 metres high. Boats can then reach the level of the Union Canal. The Falkirk Wheel was opened in 2002.

Why was it built?

Prior to the 1930s, the Forth and Clyde and the Union canals were joined together by 11 canal locks, and it took boats almost a whole day to travel through the canal using these locks one by one.. These locks were no longer used from 1933. In 1998, work began on linking the Forth and Clyde and Union Canals once again.

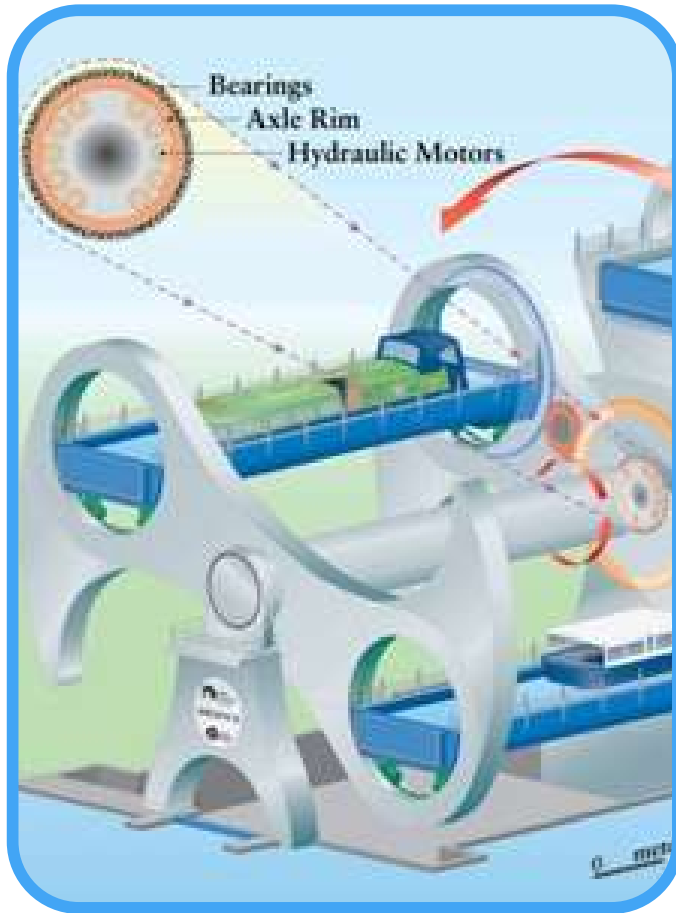
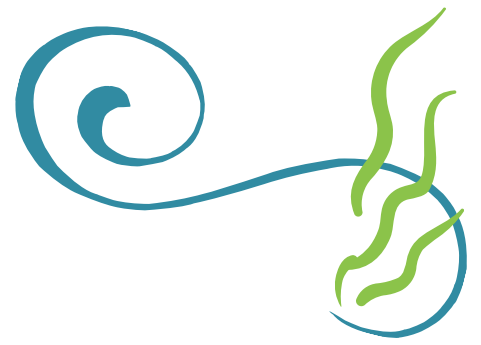


How was it built?

Parts of the Falkirk Wheel were made and put together at an engineering firm in Derbyshire. They were then taken apart and transported to Scotland. 35 lorries carried the pieces before they were bolted back together and lifted into position at Falkirk.



The Falkirk Wheel Continued



How does the Wheel work?

The Falkirk Wheel has two gondolas (passenger docks) filled with water.

The boats are moved in them.

Two boats can be lifted and lowered at the same time.

The boats sit side by side in the gondola.

Once the boats are inside the gondola and the water is at the correct level, it is sealed so that no water can escape.

Once the water is at the right level, the Falkirk Wheel is turned by machinery.

It keeps the boats level and in the same position.

It takes around 4 minutes for the gondola to raise or lower boats.

Once at the top, the gondola is locked in place and the gate is opened. The boats can then sail on to the next part of their journey.

Fun Facts

- 1200 tonnes of steel were used to make the Falkirk Wheel
- Over 1000 people were involved in building it.
- There are over 15,000 bolts holding the Falkirk Wheel together. Every one of these bolts was tightened by hand.
- The Falkirk Wheel is 35 metres high; the same height as 8 double-decker buses in one pile.
- The energy used to turn the Falkirk Wheel is the same as it would take to boil 8 kettles.
- Each of the two gondolas on the Falkirk Wheel holds 500,000 litres of water. That's enough water to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool!



Maths

**Solve problems with your peers
and work out what is the fastest
and slowest way of travelling
down the canal!**



Look



- As a group, look over the Falkirk Wheel factsheet pages and each write a paragraph on a different aspect
- Look at the pictures in this booklet, and list what ways you can travel when you are on, or next to the canals

Talk



- Talk in your group about some of the most important facts you learned about what makes the Falkirk Wheel such a special invention
- Talk about the different ways you can travel along the length of the canal
- Talk about which is slowest and which is fastest methods

Make



- Using your Scrapbook page, make a list or draw pictures of different ways to travel along the canal
- As a group, make an information poster to present to the class about what you learned about the Falkirk Wheel and what makes it such a special invention
- Make some example questions for your classmates where they need to work out the quickest way along the canal



Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet. Have your teacher tick off your achievements in Maths

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Maths	MNU 0-10a	I am aware of how routines and events in my world link with times and seasons, and have explored ways to record and display these using clocks, calendars and other methods.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maths	MNU 1-10c	I have begun to develop a sense of how long tasks take by measuring the time taken to complete a range of activities using a variety of timers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maths	MNU 2-10c	Using simple time periods, I can give a good estimate of how long a journey should take, based on my knowledge of the link between time, speed and distance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maths	MTH 2-12a	I have worked with others to explore, and present our findings on, how mathematics impacts on the world and the important part it has played in advances and inventions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maths	MTH 1-12a	I have discussed the important part that numbers play in the world and explored a variety of systems that have been used by civilisations throughout history to record numbers.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Modern Studies and the Canals



On Falkirk's canals, communities pull together to make sure everyone is included in the amazing experiences the water can offer. Students will explore Modern Studies on the canals in this section, learning about water-based volunteering and charities that use the canals.

Modern Studies is a part of Social Subjects and is all about understanding how communities function together. A great example of this is when people volunteer to help others, and one organisation in the local community that does this on the canals is the Seagull Trust. They provide free canal boat trips for people with disabilities.

The Seagull Trust - Scotland

There are bases at Falkirk, Ratho, Kirkintilloch and Inverness. Ratho near Edinburgh is the birthplace of the Seagull Trust, when cruises started here in 1979, with their first boat, St John Crusader. The charity originally campaigned to save the canal network. Their seagull logo represents freedom.



The Seagull Trust – Falkirk branch

Thousands of people with disabilities have enjoyed free boat trips along the canal network, initially the Forth and Clyde Canal, then the Union Canal when the Falkirk boathouse opened in 1996.

Who is it for?

Each boat can take 12 passengers, with space for up to four wheelchairs. There is a lift to provide easy wheelchair access, a disabled toilet and moveable seats to suit all parties. Many groups benefit from the free canal cruises, from Alzheimer Scotland to nursing homes, Additional Support Needs schools & families. Seagull Trust Cruises Falkirk branch operates six different cruise packages for people with physical and mental disabilities. There are two round trips from the boathouse – a one-hour and a two-hour long cruise along the Union Canal. There is also a five-hour round trip option from the boathouse. And there are three cruises which also take in the Falkirk Wheel – one sailing to the wheel, another returning from it and a five-hour trip to the landmark and back again. During all these cruises, the crew – who are all volunteers – serve up tea, coffee and soft drinks, also free of charge. Anyone who has a physical or mental disability is welcome to sail and many families also book parties on board.

The importance of volunteering

The Trust couldn't operate without the support of its 200 members and the many volunteers who give of their time to man cruises. Each day, from April to October, it needs a lead skipper, five fellow skippers and crew to steer passengers on half and full-day trips on the Union Canal.



Fundraising

Seagull Trust Cruises are mostly powered by generous public donations. The Trust also set up an art gallery and charity shop recently in the Howgate Centre. A percentage of proceeds from artwork sales helps to power the charity's daily boat trips from April to October. BAE Systems has long been a supporter of the Trust's work, with its hungry workers raising a staggering £25,360 in the last six years, by giving donations at their staff tuck shop. Other local organisations have donated funds to the Trust, like the Rotary and Round Table. Falkirk High School pupils have also given £3000 from their Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

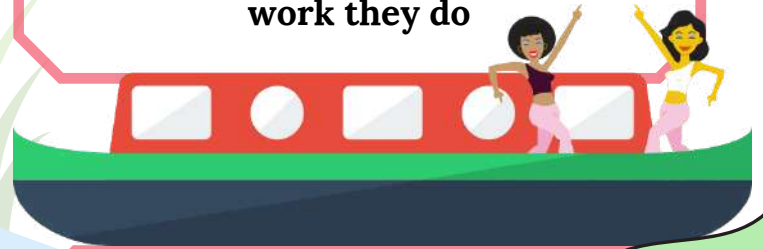


Video-link of Seagull Trust canal barge journey

CLICK HERE

Modern Studies

You will investigate local canal charity The Seagull Trust and create a presentation to let others know about their history and the great work they do



Look



- Using the Scrapbook page, make a list of important facts you've learned about The Seagull Trust
- Look at the video showing a Seagull Trust canal barge journey
- Look out along the canal for Seagull Trust barges or buildings

Talk

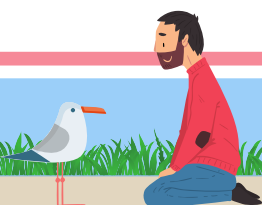


- Talk about the difference between a business and a charity
- Talk about the good things that charities do, and in particular, The Seagull Trust
- Talk about other ways you could help people locally in exploring Falkirk's canals

Make



- Make a list of important facts you find out about The Seagull Trust
- Make a list of how people benefit from charities like the Seagull Trust
- Make a presentation that tells people more about The Seagull Trust
- Make a presentation about ideas you have for other ways you could help people locally to explore Falkirk's canals



Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet. Have your teacher tick off your achievements in **Modern Studies**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Modern Studies	SOC 0-16a	By exploring my local community, I have discovered the different roles people play and how they can help.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern Studies	SOC 1-16a	I can contribute to a discussion of the difference between my needs and wants and those of others around me	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern Studies	SOC 2-16a	I can explain how the needs of a group in my local community are supported.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Literacy on the Canals

Literacy is all around us on Falkirk's canals, from the signs we read to help us navigate them, to when we write about or draw what we see there, to when we talk about our experiences on the water. This section helps students explore literature about the canals, and encourages them to compose their own pieces about the canals.

Falkirk's Canals areas are the perfect place to develop literacy



We read...



We write and draw...



We talk...



We listen...



We take notes...

Here is a poem written by a Falkirk
resident about their memories of Falkirk.
See how many canal landmarks are
mentioned...

The home of the boat lift, it's called the wheel.
It links the canals, a marvel so real

McCowan's Toffee, and Barr's Irn Bru.
Aitken Beer, and Moscardini's too.

We've got the Kelpies, at Helix Park.
They light up in colour, after dark.

Brockville Stadium, sadly it's gone.
But that's a big hint, of where we're from.

The Dark Tunnel and the Mitchell's gates.
Alexander's buses and the Carronades.

There's Callendar House, and our famous steeple.
Known as the Bairns, are this town's people.

Better mess with the De'il, than meddle with us.
That's our motto, I hope this is enough.

James Cassidy

Literacy

You will write about your
experience of being at Falkirk's
canals



Look



- Look at the poem and think about
 - What you've learned so far about Falkirk's Canals
 - What different things are being mentioned
 - What makes a poem/haiku
- Look at what you can remember seeing/doing when you're at the canal

Talk



- Talk about what a poem/haiku is
- Talk about how this poem sounds and what it tells you about the poet
- Talk about different things you might mention

Make



- Make a list of things you might want to include in your own poem/haiku
- Try to create your own poem/haiku using everything you have learned about Falkirk's canals
- Add a drawing next to your poem/haiku of a memory you have whilst being on the canal



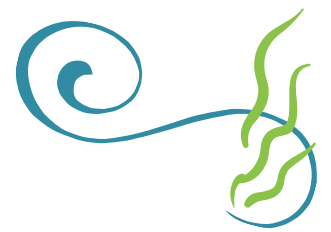
Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet. Have your teacher tick off your achievements in Literacy

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Literacy/ English	ENG 0-12a/ LIT 0-13a/ LIT 0-21a	I explore sounds, letters and words, discovering how they work together, and I can use what I learn to help me as I read or write	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literacy/ English	LIT 1-23a	Throughout the writing process, I can check that my writing makes sense.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literacy/ English	LIT 2-23a	Throughout the writing process, I can check that my writing makes sense and meets its purpose.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Get active and learn outdoors along the Falkirk Canals



Litterpick

As a group, help pick up litter along the canal – take pride in it, and help keep it tidy!



Count the canal locks

As you walk along the canal, count the canal locks and try to figure out how they work



Bird spotting

Identify all the different types of birds you see at / near the canal



Count the people

Count the people / count the types of transport as you walk along a stretch of the canal



Insect spotting

Count and list the different types of insects you see along the canal

Canal sounds

List the different sounds you hear as you go along the canal





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