



Learning Activities for Primary Schools



**HERITAGE
FUND**

Great Place^o
Celebrate Your Heritage



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



gov.scot



**Scottish Rural
Development
Programme**



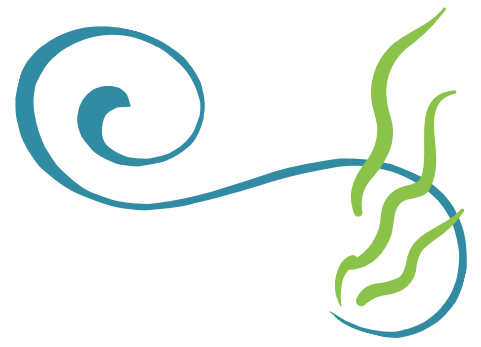


History and the Canals



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

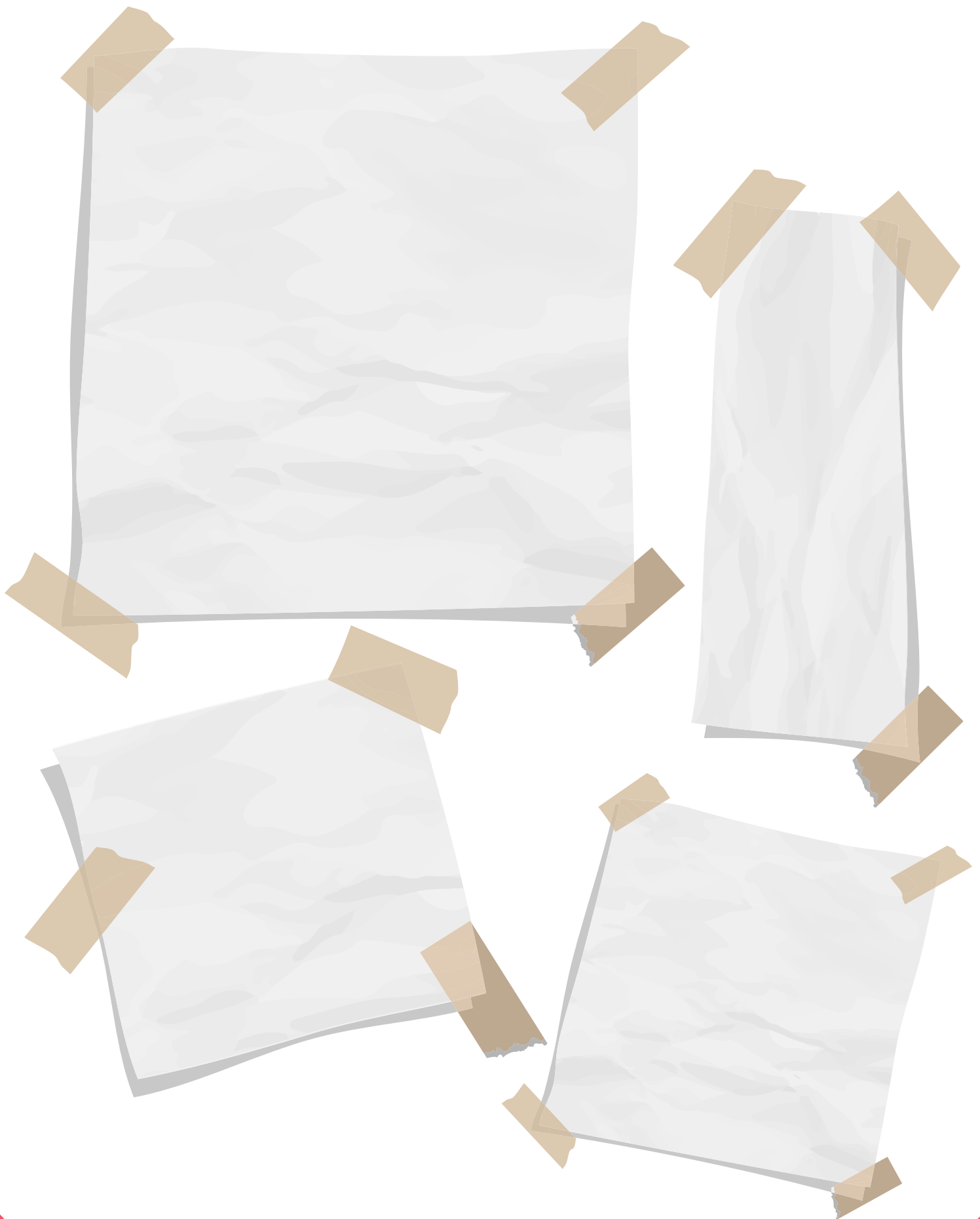
Make



- Make a timeline of years and events, like the one on the Scottish Canals website
- 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 scrapbook 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"/>
