



# Falkirk Canals Classroom



Learning Activities for  
Primary Schools



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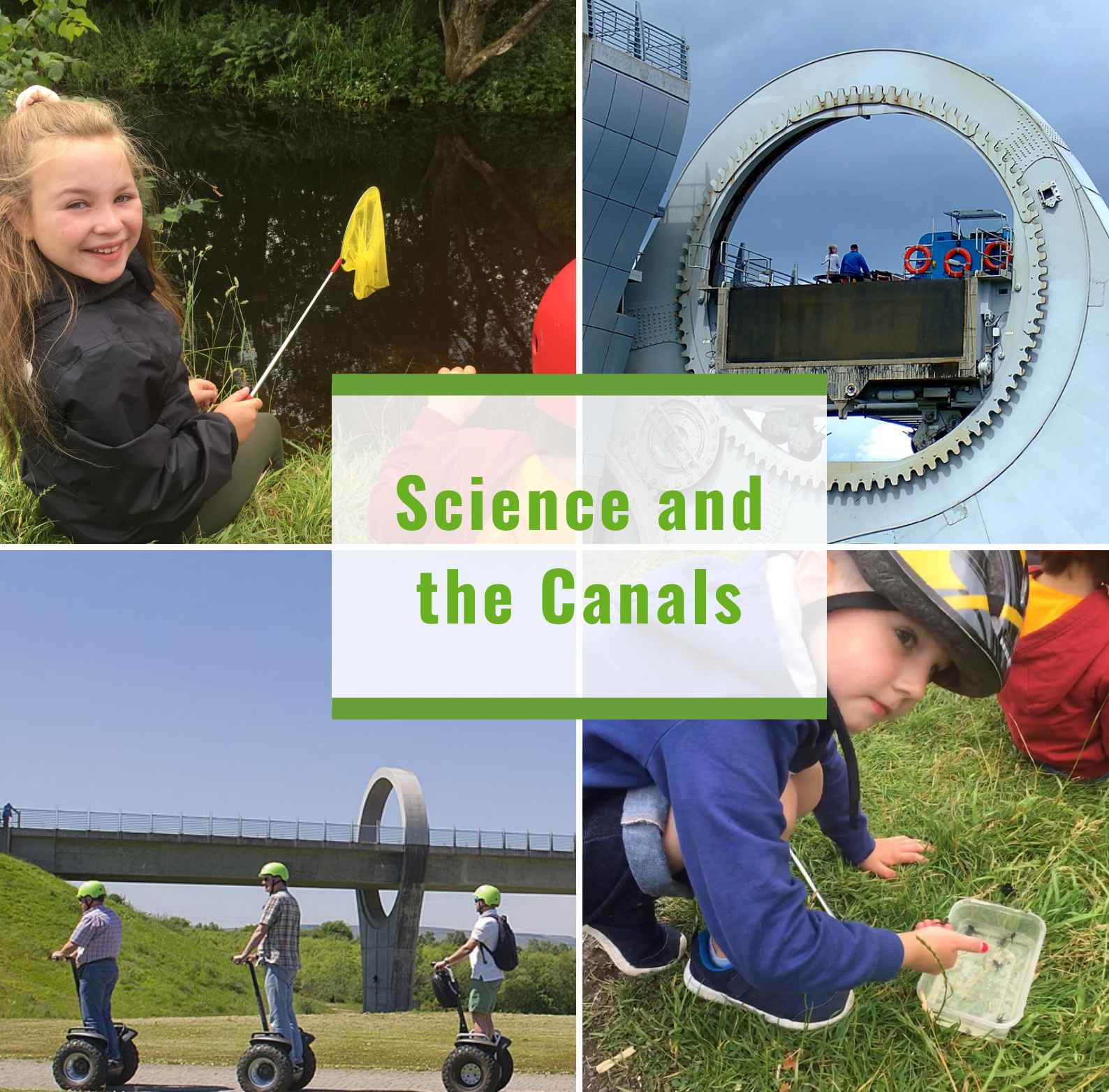
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Scottish Rural  
Development  
Programme







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.



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**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. 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"/>