



Living and Working by the Canal Activity Plan

Learning Objectives

- To discover the people who lived and worked along Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal.
- To understand the jobs needed to maintain and operate the canal from the 19th century to present day and compare how these have changed.
- To develop enquiry, investigation, creative thinking, communication and role-play skills.

Resources

- Child Workers in Industry Role-play: Teachers' Guidance Notes, role-play cards, role-play question sheet, summary report
- Comparing the lives of rich and poor: Teachers' Guidance Notes, Fact Files and comparison sheet
- A Day in the Life of William and Alice: Teachers' Guidance Notes
- Working on the Canal - then and now: Teachers' Guidance Notes, Fact Files and Comparison Table
- Film: [Meet Ifan and Taffy](#)

Activities

Use the 1842 Children's Employment Commission report to create role-play cards and take on the role of a child worker.

Research the lives of two contrasting families who lived along the canal in the past using census records, photographs and maps.

Imagine a day in the life of two contrasting Victorian children who lived beside the canal.

Compare the jobs of those who worked along the canal past and present then create freeze frame tableaus of the different jobs using photographs as inspiration.

Watch: Meet Ifan and Taffy to find out about a current job on the canal today.



Suggestions

Complete the census activity in the bundle 'How has Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal changed over time?' to familiarise learners with using census data.

Plenary

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal brought many employment opportunities to the Dee Valley, both to local people and workers from further afield. Many were employed by the growing industries that used the canal to transport goods, others operated the canal boats and some were employed to repair and maintain the canal. Some of these jobs are still needed today to keep the canal in working order for visitors and leisure boats.

KS2 Curriculum Links

England	Wales
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Geography • English • Drama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanities • Expressive Arts • Literacy and Communication

Useful Websites/Extra Resources

- [Primary Homework help The Victorians](#)
- [1842 Children's Employment Commission](#)
- [Saturn Fly-boat](#)
- [The Victorians on the Canals - London Canal Museum](#)