

Life of the canal: UU Knowledge Organiser 2026.

Key learning for this topic:

- Our world is made up of physical and human features.
- Rivers are physical (natural) and canals are human (man-made) features.
- Canals were built to allow the transport of goods across UK via boats.
- Canals can be found all over the UK. They flow through urban and rural areas.



Eight Point Compass:

N/E = Northeast

S/E = Southeast

S/W = Southwest

S/E = Southeast

The Worcester & Birmingham Canal takes you from the vibrant centre of Birmingham, through the green hills of Worcestershire, to the cathedral city of Worcester.

Key Vocabulary for this topic:

canal: A waterway built by humans.

lock: A device that is used for moving a boat from one water level to another. This is done by raising or lowering the water level.

towpath: A road or path that is on the bank of the river or canal. This path allows you to "tow" a boat.

Navigation: Finding a way from one place to another.

Barge: A long narrow boat with a flat bottom, mainly used on canals.

rural: Things that are often seen in the countryside.

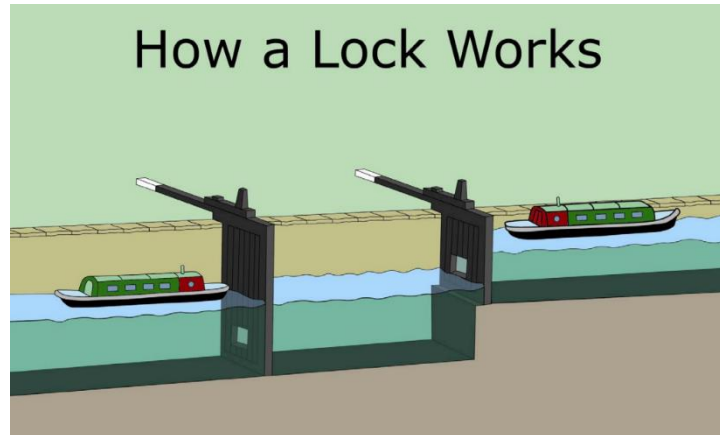
urban: Things that are often seen in the city.

human features: Things in our surroundings built by humans, such as houses, roads, canals and railways.

physical features: Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans.



Always remember to stay **SAFE** near water – **Stay Away From the Edge**



Locks are the way boats get up and down hill.

Key Questions for this topic:

1. What is a canal?
2. Who built the canals?
3. How were the canals used?
4. How can we stay safe around water?
5. What was Life on the boats/canals like?
6. How can you use the local canal?
7. What historical features can you spot along the towpath?
8. Who looks after the canals?
9. Why do we need locks?

Great websites to visit to find out lots more about our water ways are:

[Canal & River Trust Education - free primary school trips to your local waterway.](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) | Canal & River Trust (canalrivertrust.org.uk)

[Water safety for kids](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) | Canal & River Trust (canalrivertrust.org.uk)



Texts for this topic



