

AINA CASE STUDY

FAIRER, STRONGER AND MORE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Glasgow: The Maryhill Canal Classroom



Children enjoy a visit to the locks at Maryhill on the Forth & Clyde Canal

An education pack encourages many different ways of looking at a canal

British Waterways Scotland have worked with Sustrans Scotland and a group called the Glasgow Storytellers to create an educational resource called the Maryhill Canal Classroom. This is a colourful sixty page document which outlines the many ways in which schools can make full use of the Forth and Clyde Canal as an integrated part of their work. The ideas and activities all link to Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence programme.

The Canal Classroom pack describes a huge variety of educational themes and initiatives. These include using the waterway corridor as a classroom, studying the history of the Forth and Clyde Canal and linking to other organisations and activities. Suggestions for projects are extremely varied and aspects of each are described in detail, supported by suggestions for places to visit, historical information, maps and an image bank.

The ways in which canal regeneration can be used to develop educational work are outlined in some detail. One approach casts a school class as an organisation responsible for improving the canal in Maryhill to bring it back to life as safe and interesting place for local people to visit. Related work might include survey work and audits, research into who uses and does not use the canal and analysis of data.

Specific projects might include architectural ideas with plans and models, proposals for new footbridges and public art, the development of wildlife areas, implications for health and safety and ways to use potential sources of funding. Such projects provide opportunities for group and individual work as well as whole-class meetings, linked to the practical application of numeracy, literacy, ICT, technology, design and art skills, as well as science, history and citizenship topics.

The benefits of using the Maryhill Canal Classroom pack include:

- Use of a free resource linked to the Curriculum for Excellence
- Learning in context through first-hand experiences
- Access to an environment for fully inclusive physical activity
- Strengthened links between schools and local communities
- Contributing towards future citizenship
- Cross-curricular activities for a class or school across varied disciplines

The partners summarise their successful work by explaining that "the cross-curricular activities aim to stimulate students and provoke their curiosity and can be used by teachers as a springboard for their own ideas and activities."

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk/education to view the full Maryhill Canal Classroom pack.