# Teachers Notes

Waterways Ireland
Uiscebhealaí Éireann Watterweys Airlann

## Nature Navvies Programme



www.learning.waterwaysireland.org

# The Nature Navvies Programme Guidelines

**Aim:** To enable students to become aware of the waterways of Ireland, to comprehend the origin of our beautiful waterways and to appreciate our rich aquatic heritage.
The Nature Navvies Programme consists of a story titled "A Crazy Canal Cycle" which tells the story of Lucas, Lottie and their 'dively' dog Heidi, whose Saturday cycle takes them on an unexpected epic adventure through time. On their journey they learn the geographical location, historical significance, leisure potential and biodiversity value of our waterways. Children learn effectively through a story so "A Crazy Canal Cycle" is an ideal way to teach the students all about our waterways in a fun and enjoyable way.

Four "Nature Navvie" challenges accompany the programme. On completion of the four challenges children are awarded "Nature Navvie" status and presented with a sticker and a certificate. An art competition is built into Challenge 3 where students are encouraged to email photographs of their work to learning@waterwaysireland.org

## Challenge 1

Biodiversity Inspection (within school grounds) OR Nature Trail (used along any local waterway)

## Challenge 2

Drama Activity (Based upon oral history clipping)
Oral history clipping can be found on the website using the following link:
https://www.waterwaysireland.org/early-memories-of-the-royal-canal

## Challenge 3

Build a Barge (Art Competition)

The competition will run from September to 15th May. The winner and the school will be contacted after this date to arrange prize-giving and a photo opportunity.

Entrants to submit up to four photographs of the completed piece of work along with a brief description of how the piece was constructed.

Details to be included with entry: Barge name, student's name, class/year, teacher's name, school name, address and telephone number.

All submissions to be emailed to learning@waterwaysireland.org

All personal information supplied will be used solely for the administration and management of the Build a Barge (Art Competition).

Photos of the winners together with name and age may be used in publicity campaigns where the parent or guardian has given consent.

## Challenge 4

History Activity (Ireland's First Motorways)

## Feedback

We hope you enjoy using this programme and welcome your feedback. Please email comments to learning@waterwaysireland.org or complete our online evaluation form by visiting www.learning.waterwaysireland.org

## Acknowledgement

The Nature Navvies Programme was compiled by Gráinne O'Shea (B.A. MSc. H.Dip.)

## "A Crazy Canal Cycle" and Nature Navvies Challenges:
Curriculum Planning

# Geography

**Strand:** Natural Environments

**Strand Unit:** The Local Natural Environment

The child shall be enabled to:

- Investigate and become familiar with some natural features in the local environment

**KS2**

Place:

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- How place influences the nature of life

Notes...

## "A Crazy Canal Cycle" and Nature Navvies Challenges:
Curriculum Planning

# Science

**Strand:** Living things

**Strand unit:** Plant and animal life

The child shall be enabled to:

- Observe, identify and examine the animals and plants that live in local habitats and environments

**KS2**

Interdependence:

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- How living things rely on each other within the natural world

Notes...

## "A Crazy Canal Cycle" and Nature Navvies Challenges:
Curriculum Planning

# Drama

**4th Class**

**Strand:** Drama to explore feelings, knowledge and ideas, leading to understanding

**Strand unit:** Exploring and making drama,

The child shall be enabled to:

- Discover how the use of space and objects can help in building the context and in signifying dramatic themes

**KS2**

Pupils should be enabled to:

- Develop dramatic skills appropriate to audience, context, purpose and task by exploring voice, movement, gesture and facial expressions through basic explorations of a specific role, and by structuring dramatic activity to make meaning clear for a chosen audience.

Notes...

## "A Crazy Canal Cycle" and Nature Navvies Challenges:
Curriculum Planning

# Art

**4th Class**

**Strand:** Construction

**Strand unit:** Making Constructions, Looking and Responding

The child shall be enabled to:

- Explore and experiment with the properties and characteristics of materials in making structures
- Make imaginative structures
- Look at and talk about his/her work and the work of other children

**KS2**

Pupils should be enabled to:

- Use a range of media, materials, tools and processes such as: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Malleable materials, Textiles and Three-Dimensional Construction, Selecting which is appropriate in order to realise personal ideas and intentions

Notes...

## "A Crazy Canal Cycle" and Nature Navvies Challenges:
Curriculum Planning

# History

**4th Class**

**Strand:** Local Studies

**Strand Unit:** My locality through the ages

The child shall be enabled to:

- Become familiar with important events in the history of the locality, referring to the wider national context where relevant

**KS2**

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- Change over time in places

**Methodologies**

- Talk and discussion
- Active learning
- Collaborative learning
- Problem solving
- Skills through content
- Free exploration of materials
- Investigative approach
- Using the environment

**Assessment**

- Teacher observation
- Questioning

**Differentiation**

- Higher and lower order questions
- Offer prompts if needed
- Different ability groupings

Notes...




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