



Voices of the Waterways Lesson Plan 6

The World Around US (Change)

Subject

History & English

ROI: Strand: Local Studies (Strand Unit: My Locality Through the Ages).
Strand: Story (Stand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past).

Northern Ireland: The World Around Us (including Place: How place influences the nature of life; Change over time in places).

Grade level

4th Class (Key Stage 2)

Aims of Lesson

This Lesson Plan will show students how story and memory can help them better understand their surroundings as well as change over time. It will also help skills and concepts development, time and chronology, using evidence and change and continuity, focused on the decline of canals across the island of Ireland.



What you Need

Internet Connection, Whiteboard/Computer, amplification and printout paper.

Preparation

Teachers should make sure that Waterways Ireland's Archive Website is accessible within the classroom and that the oral history selections are playing through your speaker system/whiteboard.

Getting Started

To begin, pupils need a basic understanding of what the term oral history means. Write the term 'oral history' on the board and invite them to explain it.

Oral history is 'the recording of people's memories and experiences and using those memories to understand what life was like in the past.'



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Activity

Write the word 'canal' on the board and explain what it is. I.e. A man made waterway built in the past to allow boats and barges to travel inland and deliver products across the country.

Students are asked to listen to the three short memories below. Play each clip twice. Ask students to listen carefully and write down the following after the memories have been played. Note: Answers are on page 3.

- ✓ In your own words, what happened the canal in Kilcock after it closed.
- ✓ What does Tommy Holland say took over from the canal boats?
- ✓ What reason does Brian Cassell's give for the building of Newry Canal?



Assessment

The students will be asked to demonstrate the key learning outcome from their engagement with the memory, by actively listening to the audio and being able to provide answers directly from the segments played.

Remember: The stories you will hear are told in a variety of different accents from across the island of Ireland, so listen carefully!

Waterways Audio Samples

Michael O'Connor



In this piece of audio, you will hear from Michael O'Connor, a native of Kilcock in County Kildare, who speak about the closure of the Royal Canal in Kilcock how it was abandoned after canal boats ceased to travel on it.

Tommy Holland



In this piece of audio, you will hear Tommy Holland from Whitegate, County Clare. Tommy recalls the decline of canal boat activity in the early 1960s and the sadness of local people when it stopped.

Brian Cassells



Here, Brian Cassells, a historian from Lurgan, County Armagh outlines the historical development of Canals in Ulster and speaks about their historical importance and later decline.

Answers

Answer 1: The canal fell into decay and decline (2) The locks went rotten (3) The harbour became an eyesore or 'like a ditch'

Answer 2: Transport on the road

Answer 3: To get coal from Coalisland to Dublin