

Droitwich Canals Restoration To Restore or Not to Restore?

Introduction

This lesson provides an opportunity for children to explore various points of view about the restoration of the Droitwich canals through role-play and discussion.

QCA Scheme of Work KS2 Citizenship Unit 10 Local democracy for young citizens.

Learning Objectives

To understand that different people have different opinions.

To understand that arguments can be resolved through discussion and debate.

To understand that the Droitwich canals can be used for a variety of different purposes.

National Curriculum KS2 Citizenship 1a, 2a, 2f, 2h, 4a, 5c

Resources

Source sheets A & B.

Key Vocabulary

Campaign, preservation, navigate, restoration, recreation, habitat, disruption.

Teaching Activities

Introduction Ask the children to think of all the possible activities that people could do in and around the canal. They may wish to share some of the things they do. Ask them if they think that everyone can enjoy their own leisure activities without causing any conflict with other peoples' activities.

Activities Split the class into groups and issue each group with a role-play card. Give each group sufficient time to read the card and to understand what the main issues are.

Each group must appoint a spokesperson. The spokesperson should come to the front of the class and present their point of view. Key points can be written on the board as a summary. Ask the rest of the class to review the key points.

Open up the debate by encouraging children to identify conflicting issues and by endeavouring to resolve them.

Plenary After discussion and consideration take a vote - to restore or not to restore?

Differentiation

This lesson has been designed for use with children in Years 5 and 6. Younger or less able pupils might read out their statements. Older or more able pupils might be asked to develop one or two additional arguments before presenting their viewpoints.

Cross-curricular

This lesson could be linked with work in literacy and ICT.

Follow-up

Children could write newspaper articles discussing the pros and cons of restoring the Droitwich canals. They could use the Internet to discover more about the [Droitwich Canals Restoration Project](#) and in particular plans for the re-establishment of the reed beds.

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Member of Droitwich Canals Trust

Our campaign has been running since 1973 and at last we will see our dreams come true. There is a real opportunity here to make the canal a real asset for the town. If we don't get it right we will lose 200 years of history. Once the locks are in place and working and the canal has been cleared of reeds we can celebrate. A piece of our industrial history will at last have been preserved and thousands of people will come to visit it.

Fisherman

I regularly fish in competitions on the canal at Porter's Mill. It's a lovely peaceful spot with plenty of reeds where the fish hide. Mind you there's other stretches of the canal where the pleasure boats can navigate. If one of them comes past it annoys me and I'm tempted to throw a handful of maggots at it! I'm for Droitwich being improved but more boats could spoil my sport because they could cause disruption.

Narrowboat owner

The restoration will complete a 21 mile canal loop linking the Worcester & Birmingham Canal in the East to the navigable River Severn in the West, providing extended opportunities for our boating holidays in and around the West Midlands. I can't wait to explore new places and see wildlife in the reedbeds that I've read all about.

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Local Councillor

The restored canal could attract up to 330,000 new visits a year with people spending £2.75 million locally a year. This is a splendid opportunity for Droitwich and will put the town on the map as a tourist attraction. There will also be 1,000 metres of new canal constructed to avoid houses built on its original line, bringing the waterway close to local peoples' homes and providing direct access points for leisure and recreation.

Local Homeowner

I'm undecided. On the one hand the new canal will be great for walking along but then it might attract hundreds of people in boats at all times of day. It's quite peaceful where we live at the moment. I don't want lots of holidaymakers disturbing our peace and quiet. But I suppose it's a good thing for our town.

Birdwatcher

A rare habitat could be destroyed if they're not careful. What's going to happen to the nesting birds such as reed buntings and sedge warblers? They're going to build new reedbeds for the birds to nest in, but will they wait long enough for these to grow and become established before they bring all the boats back? If they don't, I think it could be bad news. If they get it right, it could be great!