

Introduction

This activity allows children to observe the different water birds found on or near the Montgomery Canal. This resource can be used on a boat trip or walk along the towpath. It is suitable for KS1 and lower KS2 children. A Welsh version of this resource is available at [Adar dŵr ar Gamlas Maldwyn](#).

The Montgomery Canal is a declared Site of Special Scientific Interest for almost half of its length and supports a wide variety of wildlife. Maintaining the environment and habitats of the wildlife plays an important part in the restoration of the canal.

QCA Scheme of Work KS1 Science Unit 2B - Plant and Animals in the local environment
[KS2 Science Unit 4B - Habitats](#)

Learning Objectives

To observe and record different species of water birds found on or near to the Montgomery Canal.

To recognise different bird activities.

The Curriculum

Wales - KS1 Science 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 4.1; KS2 Science 4.2

England - KS1 Sc 5a; KS2 Sc 5b

Resources

Copies of Water birds Activity Sheet 1 and Activity Sheet 2, clipboards.

Key Vocabulary

Preening, species, observe, record, tally chart.

Teaching Activities

Health & Safety When visiting a waterway, please make children aware of the importance of **SAFE (Stay Away From the Edge)**. Prior to your visit, we recommend that you use our [Visit Planning Document](#) and undertake an activity from the [Waterside Safety resources](#).

Introduction The Activity Sheets may be laminated in order that they can become a re-usable resource. They can then be used with wax crayons or dry-wipe markers. Explain that during their visit to the Montgomery Canal, they will see a variety of different water birds. They will be counting the number of each type of bird seen, and looking at what they are doing on or near to the water e.g. swimming, feeding etc.

Activities At the canal, distribute Activity Sheet A. Explain that this shows photographs of eight of the most common water birds seen on or near to this canal. Read out the names of the birds and discuss the differences between them. On their journey, the children will use tally marks to record the number of each species of bird.

Distribute Activity sheet B. Explain that this shows photographs of six of the most common activities that these birds may be involved in. Explain any unknown terms e.g. preening. On their journey, the children will use tally marks to record the various activities observed. They can also make a note of any other bird activities that they observe.

The children could work in pairs for this exercise so that one person in each pair is responsible for the collection of data on Activity Sheet A, while the other is responsible for collecting data for Activity Sheet B.

Plenary Ask the children to report back their findings at the end of the visit.

Continued...

Water birds on the Montgomery Canal

Differentiation

This activity is suitable for both younger and older children, as an introduction to different species of water bird found locally.

Cross-curricular

This lesson may be linked with work in Literacy.

Follow-up

Back in class the children could use their data to produce graphs of their findings. With younger or less able children, [What am I?](#) is a suitable follow-up activity. This will allow the children to consolidate their ability to identify different species of water birds observed on their trip.

Older or more able children could use the Internet to research a particular water bird, presenting their findings in note form.

For more information about the Montgomery Canal use our [Montgomery Canal teaching resource](#) and [Montgomery Canal information pack](#).

Name

Date



Mallard duck

Number



Kingfisher

Number



Swan

Number



Canada Goose

Number



Coot

Number



Heron

Number



Moorhen

Number



Reed Warbler

Number

Name _____

Date _____



Flying

Number _____



Sitting on a nest

Number _____



Looking after their babies

Number _____



Preening

Number _____



Feeding

Number _____



Swimming

Number _____

Other Activities _____