

The Trail

The trail is a guided tour of Etruria Junction where the Trent and Mersey Canal meet the Caldon Canal.

Answers

Sheet 2 Answers

Stop 1: The air was very polluted here with smoke due to the large number of local pot-banks, or pottery factories, that used coal to heat the kilns.

Horses towed boats by walking along the towpath.

This towpath runs alongside the Caldon Canal. It opened in 1779 to carry Peak District limestone, from the quarries at Cauldon Low, down to the Potteries and the industrial Midlands.

Mooring bollards are painted white so that they are more visible.

The weir was built to manage the amount of water going into the locks. Excess water can flow down the weir from the top of the locks to the bottom.

Stop 2: This is lock gate 1. There are two locks in this staircase. The bottom lock opens directly into the top lock, with the top gate of the first becoming the bottom gate of the second.

The heel grips under the lock gate balance beams help to make pushing open the lock gate easier.

This is a narrow lock and is 2.2m wide.

The cobbled path was used by the horses. The cobbles made it easier for the horses to grip as they went up and downhill.

Sheet 3 Answers

Stop 3: Each time a boat travels through a narrow lock, approximately 150 000 litres of water is used; this is enough water to have a bath every day for 2 years!

The paddle gear operates the paddles which are used to let the water into and out of the locks.

Stop 4: The Trent & Mersey Canal flows under this footbridge. It links together the rivers Trent and Mersey. It opened in 1777 and was built to provide easier and cheaper transport of the raw materials and finished products of the local pottery industry.

The Etruscan Bone and Flint Mill was opened in 1857. It is the last steam-powered potters' mill in Britain. JS are the initials of the former owner of the mill - Jesse Shirley. It is now part of the Etruria Industrial Museum.

Sheet 4 Answers

Stop 5: A pair of lock gates always point in a V-shape pointing uphill to make them more watertight. This shape is very strong and they can not be opened until the water level, and therefore the pressure, is the same on each side of the gates.

A warehouse is where cargoes are stored ready for later collection.

The original bridge had a roof to protect the toll-keeper from the weather.

Stop 6: A blacksmith works in a forge. He works with iron to make tools and horseshoes.

He was important to the boat people as he made and fitted the horseshoes on their horses and could mend or make tools that they needed.

Stables would have been close by to provide shelter for the horses who were the 'engines' of the boats.

Continued...

The Trail
(continued)

Sheet 5 Answers

Stop 7: It is 30 miles to Uttoxeter. The canal was originally built to Froghall. A branch extended the navigation to Uttoxeter but this lasted only until 1845 when it was closed and replaced with a railway line.

Stop 8: **James Brindley** was a famous canal engineer of the 18th century. He planned the construction of both the Caldon and Trent & Mersey Canals, although he died before either was completed.

He was responsible for the construction of about 584km (365 miles) of inland waterways.

Stop 9: On a visit to the Etruria Industrial Museum you can learn about the last steam-powered potters' mill in Britain, handle mill and canal artefacts and see inside a working forge and 1940s canal check office.

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