

**Part 1:** Canals and rivers in England and Wales

**Part 2:** The environmental impact of canals

**Part 3:** Managing, maintaining and restoring canals and rivers

**Part 4:** Career information

# Introduction for teachers

## A new resource to support discussion around climate change

Canals and rivers provide millions of people with access to green and blue spaces, creating opportunities for improved wellbeing. They are places where nature can thrive and provide natural habitats for thousands of species of animals and plants. Canals and rivers can play an important role in the fight against climate change.

Climate change is a serious threat to the 250-year-old network of inland waterways. Extreme weather events such as drought and storms cause millions of pounds of damage, adding to already substantial maintenance and repairs costs. Considerable investment is needed to protect canals, reservoirs, bridges, locks, and other structures against future events, and to protect vital habitats for wildlife.

This resource addresses the question:

### Should we invest in canals to help fight climate change?

The pupil planning sheet can help students to consider social, economic and environmental issues in attempting a response to the question.

#### Flexible delivery

The resource is designed to be flexible to your needs, whether you are addressing the topic in a single lesson, over several sessions, as a synoptic topic at the end of a year, or as a focussed project for an Eco, STEM or after school club. You can choose to focus on content that is most relevant to your students.

#### Should we invest in canals to help fight climate change?

This resource will inspire learning and stimulate discussion around topics such as:

- The impact of climate change on canals, rivers and the wildlife living along the waterways
- How canals and rivers can help in the fight against climate change
- The financial cost of protecting the network-maintenance, restoration and repairs
- The benefits to people and wildlife to be derived from investment

#### Teaching resources

We've created a series of interactive tools to select and download.

- Information sheets for teachers - contains facts, photographs, charts, data and more
- PowerPoint slides to support delivery – interactive presentation tool with suggested activities
- Planning sheet for students – a planning framework
- Career information – information on roles, responsibilities, & pathways for related jobs

#### Building skills

The teaching resources will support you in building pupil skillset in preparation for KS4. The information in these resources will help students to think synoptically about a geographical topic and develop their analytical data and interpretation skills. The resources provide an opportunity for students to practice decision-making and extended writing in answering the high tariff '9-12-mark' style questions.

To find out more about how canals and rivers are transforming places and enriching lives, visit

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/climate-change-resource](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/climate-change-resource)

