



Burnley Trail

Family Activity and Information Sheet

Planning your route

The walk from Gannow Tunnel to Bank Hall Colliery is 3 miles (5km). Allow about 2 hours to follow the trail then 1.5 hours to walk back.



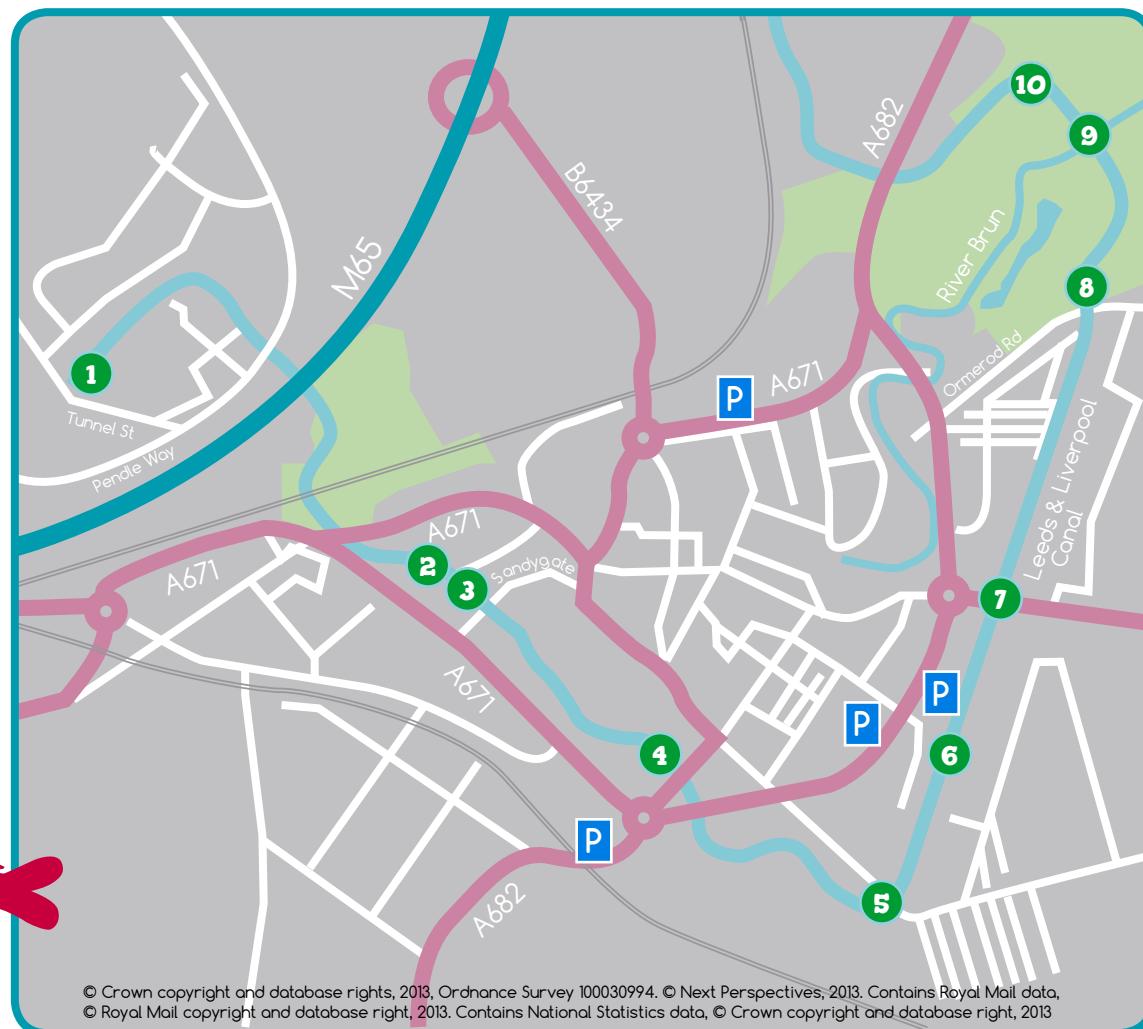
You can join the walk at any of the stop points – use the map and QR code plaques to work out where you are.

Access for All

The canal towpath is accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs although some areas of the towpath are narrow so do take care. The best access point for wheelchairs and pushchairs is at Sandygate where there is a gentle slope onto the towpath.

Water warning

Canals are fun places, but remember:
Stay SAFE – Stay Away From the Edge.
For information on water safety go to:
www.canalriverexplorers.org.uk





Activity 1

Gannow Tunnel

Gannow Tunnel was dug through the hill so boats could travel along the canal in and out of Burnley. Tunneling was a very tricky and dangerous job.

Curious Carvings

Can you see the unusual carvings on the mouth of the tunnel? What are they? Can you solve the mystery of the marks? Could stonemasons have made them?



FACT:
Gannow Tunnel took 5 years to build!

Stonemasons carefully carved, shaped and laid each one of the stones in the tunnel by hand. They decorated stones to keep track of their work and to make sure they got paid the right amount.

Towpath Task:

If you were a stonemason how would you decorate your stone? Design your own mason marks.

Wildlife Watch

Bat Cave

The tunnel is an ideal spot for bats to roost. They eat insects so the canal is an ideal place for them to find food too.



Record the wildlife you see and hear as you walk along the canal.





Activity 2

Clock Tower Mill

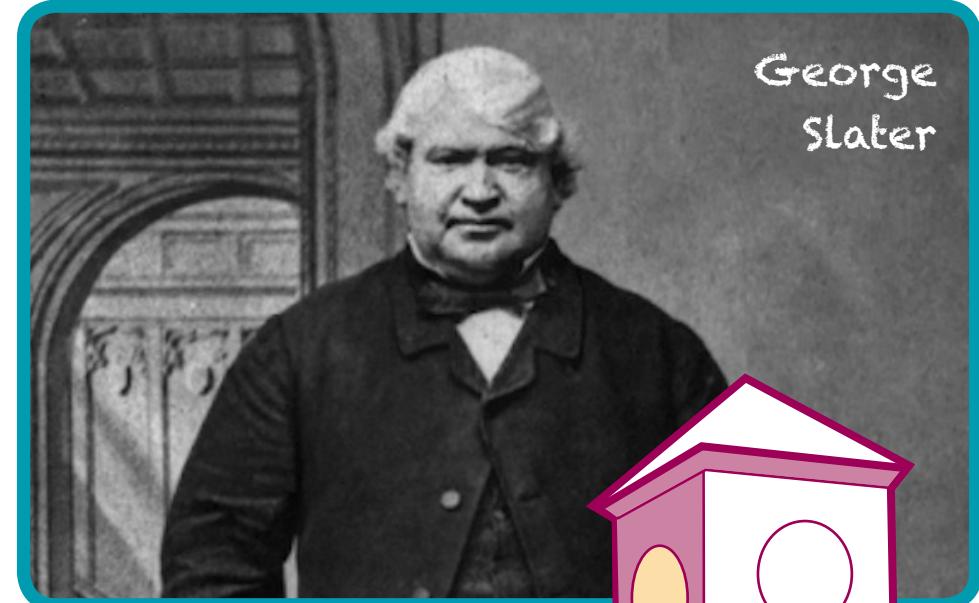
Many years ago a cotton mill stood here. It was called Clock Tower Mill because the owner, George Slater built a tall tower on the mill with a clock on it.

Through the mill

Working in the mill was tough. Children had the trickiest jobs, squeezing under heavy and fast moving machinery to collect cotton. They worked long hours too, but had to stay alert to stay alive.

Towpath Task:

Use all your senses. Imagine the mill towering above you. What would you have seen, heard and smelt around you? How does it make you feel?

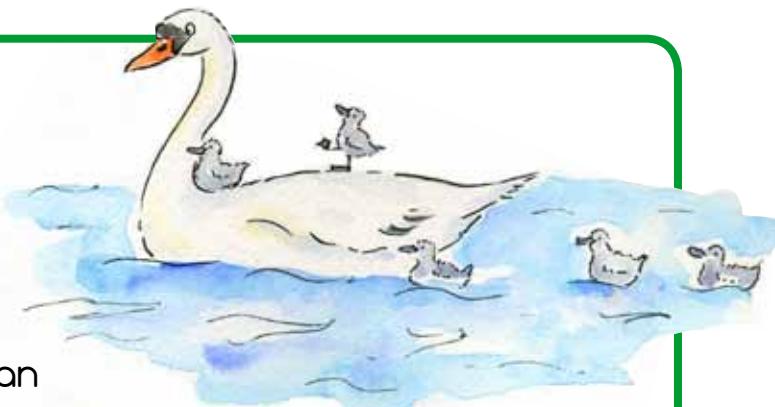


George
Slater

Wildlife Watch

Swanning Around

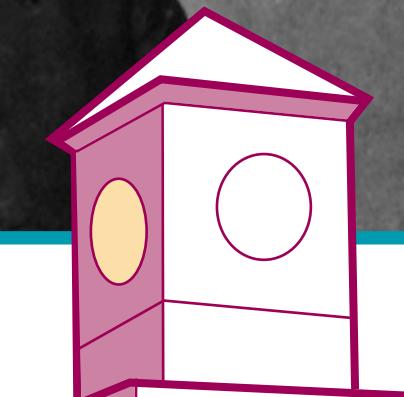
Look out for a pair of mute swans gliding along the canal. They have made this area of the canal their home.



Listen! What can you hear?



Look! What can you see?



FACT:

When the clock tower was built most working people didn't know how to tell the time! Oops!



Activity 3

Slater Terrace and Warehouse

Mill owner George Slater built a row of terraced houses next to the canal for his workers. He called them 'Slater Terrace'. Can you spot them? They are above the mill warehouse and each has a door leading onto a balcony.

Population Explosion

Britain changed a lot at this time. People moved from the countryside to work in factories and mills in the towns. The number of people grew and towns like Burnley got bigger and bigger. To keep track of people the government ordered a 'census' to collect information. The census told them a lot about people.

FACT:
In 1801
16 million
people
lived in Britain.
It rocketed to over 41
million
by 1901!

Wildlife Watch: Pretty Predators



Watch out there's a predator about! Dragonflies and damselflies are beautiful fast flying carnivores. They eat insects and you may see them darting around hunting for prey.

Listen!
What can
you hear?



Look!
What can
you see?



Name

Age

Job

Ellen	do	do	do	11	18	do	Hausekeeper
Elizabeth	do	do	do	11	18	do	Cotton Weaver
William	do	Fam	do	12		Scholar	
Thomas	do	do	do	10		do	
Jane	do	do	do	5		do	
James	do	do	do	23		Cotton Weaver	
Edward	do	do	do	23		do	
Mary	do	do	do	23		Cotton Weaver	
Sarah	do	Wife	do	23		do	
James Farmer	dead	Wife	do	61		Our looker	
Josephine	do	Wife	do	67		Our looker wife	
Ellen	do	do	do	20		Cotton Weaver	

Towpath Task:

The 1861 census tells us a lot about the families that lived in Slater Terrace. Look carefully at the census and answer these questions.

Elizabeth is a housekeeper. How old is she?

William is 12. What is his job?

Thomas is a 'scholar'. What is a scholar?

Activity 4

Burnley Wharf

Cotton mills were built all along the towpath because the canal was the perfect way to move the heavy cotton and coal. Here at the wharf cargo was loaded and unloaded into and out of the warehouses.



Towpath Task:

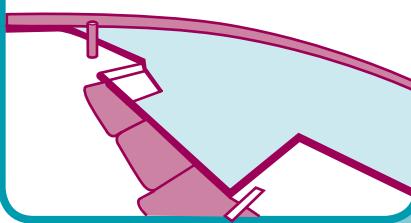
Time to become a history detective and investigate. There is evidence all around you of what happened at the wharf many years ago.

As you explore can you spot the clues?

What do the clues tell you about what happened here?

FACT: Sometimes horses fell into the canal. A gap in the towpath was created with a slope into the water. This meant the horse could be rescued. Phew!

Can you spot one?



Wildlife Watch

Butterfly Bonanza

Canals are ideal habitats for butterflies as they feed on nectar from flowers growing along the towpath. Look out for the Red Admiral or Orange Tip flitting about.



Listen! What can you hear?



Look! What can you see?

Activity 5

Finsley Gate and Boat Yard

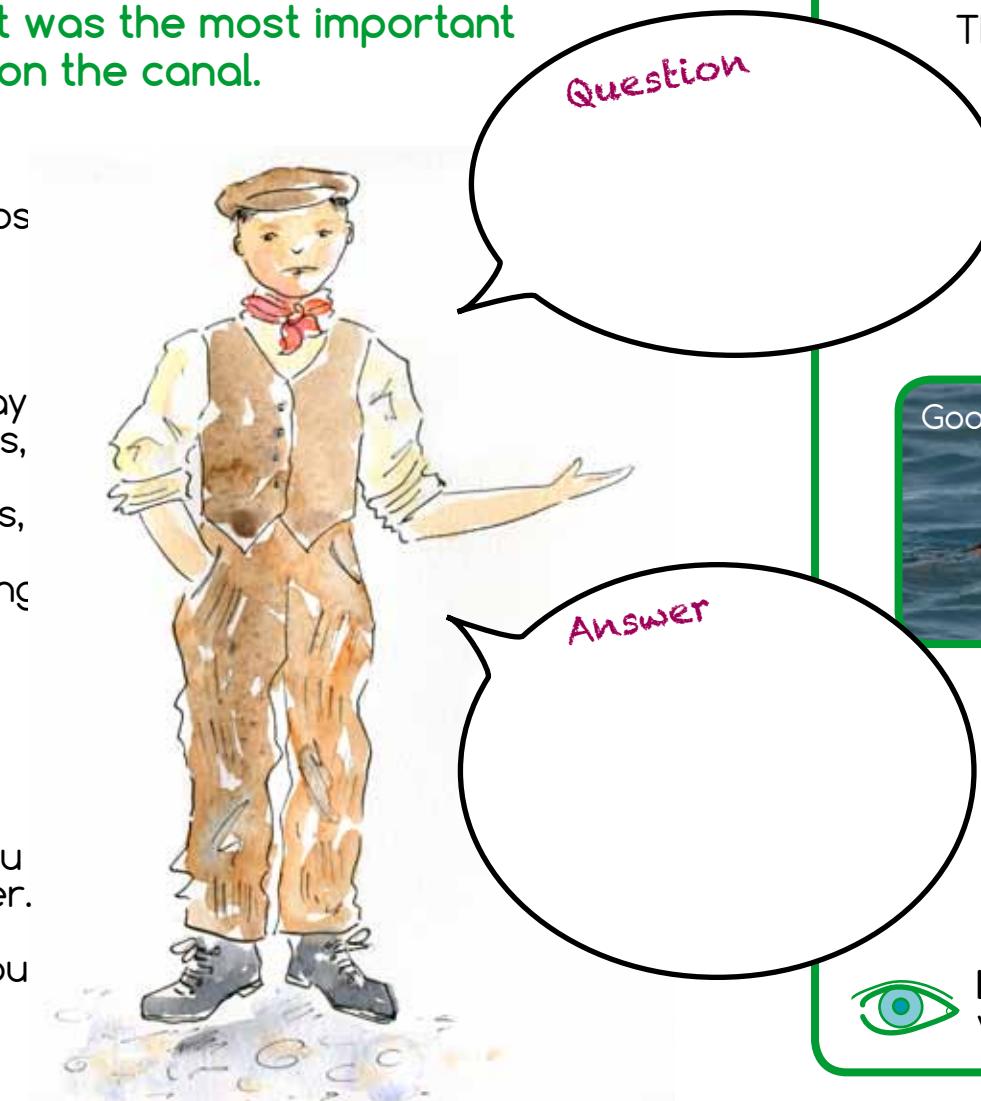
This derelict area was a hive of activity many years ago. In fact it was the most important maintenance yard on the canal.

Just the Job

The canal brought jobs to Burnley and many people worked here at Finsley Gate. Had you stood here over 200 years ago you may have seen blacksmiths, boat builders, stonemasons, painters, joiners and canal workers busily cracking on with their job.

Towpath Task:

Imagine you are standing here over 200 years ago and you meet a friendly worker. What job are they doing? What would you ask them? What did they say to you?



Wildlife Watch

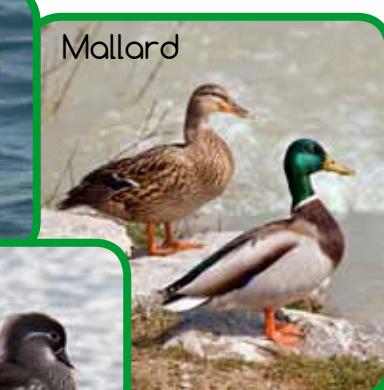
Like a duck to water

The Mallard is the most common duck on the Burnley Canal and you are sure to spot one. You may also see other duck species like the Mandarin or Goosander too. Choose one duck and watch it for a while. Does it gobble food from the water's surface or dive underwater with its tail in the air?

Goosander



Mallard



Look! What can you see?



Listen! What can you hear?



Activity 6

Burnley Embankment

Wow what a view! You are walking on the Burnley Embankment built 18 metres above the town. It is known as the 'Straight Mile', why do you think it's called this?

Waterways Wonder

The embankment was built between 1796 and 1801, by an army of navvies. The Navvies or 'navigators' were labourers who could shift and dig up to 20 tonnes of earth a day. Wow! Their muscle power helped create a 'Wonder of the Waterways'.

Towpath Task:

Find a comfortable spot and take a few moments to enjoy the view around you. Create a viewfinder with your fingers and use it to find a view that you find interesting. Use the space to sketch what you see.



Wildlife Watch

Something fishy

Would you believe it but the canal is teeming with fish. If you very carefully look into the murky water you could see a slippery eel or silvery roach swim by.



Look! What can you see?



Listen! What can you hear?

FACT: The 'Straight Mile' is actually less than a mile long and it isn't completely straight either! Shhh!

Activity 7

Yorkshire Street Aqueduct

You are standing on an aqueduct that carries the canal over Yorkshire Street below.

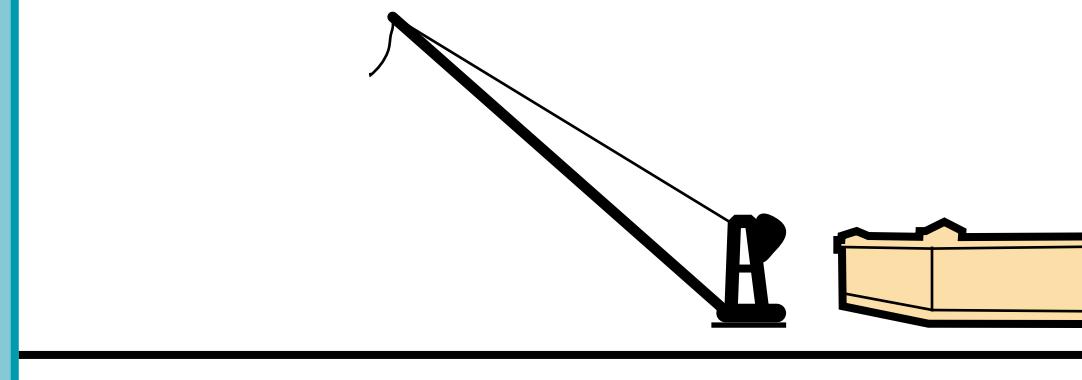
Canal Crane

The crane on the aqueduct was used to lift heavy 'stop planks' into place. The stop planks would slot into gaps into the towpath - can you spot them? They would stop floodwater.

Towpath Task:

Complete the picture of the crane lifting the stop planks.

Add boats, mills, workers and chimneys.



FACT: Manure was often transported along the canal. Stinky!

Wildlife Watch

Comeback King

If a kingfisher whizzes past, you are sure to notice as they have striking blue and orange feathers. They live where the water is clean and they eat fish and insects.



Look! What can you see?



Listen! What can you hear?

Activity 8

Thompson Park

Thompson Park is named after James Witham Thompson who left money in his will to build it here.

Wildlife Watch

Ratty Returns

The water vole is at risk across Britain because there aren't many around. They have been spotted around here but you are more likely to hear them 'plop' into the water than see them.



Look! What can you see?



Listen! What can you hear?

Crucial Conservation

The Canal and River Trust takes care of the canal and the towpath. They work hard to create places for people, plants and animals to enjoy. They also clear up litter, which can have a serious effect on the environment.

What kind of rubbish have you seen so far?



What damage do you think it will have had?



What can we do to stop it?



FACT: 2.25 million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day!



Activity 9 River Brun

If you look over the aqueduct wall you will see the River Brun. It flows through Burnley and in places through underground tunnels.

Natural v Man Made

The River Brun is natural and collects rainwater on its journey towards the sea. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is man made and was designed and built to carry boats and their cargo.

The same

Different

FACT: The canal was lined with clay to stop it leaking.

Towpath Task:

Look at the canal and the River Brun. Record what is the same and what is different between them.

Wildlife Watch

Outstanding Otter

The otter is a protected species because there are so few of them in Britain. They hunt for fish, especially at night and enjoy sun bathing on the riverbank in the day.



Look! What can you see?



Listen! What can you hear?



Activity 10

Bank Hall Pit

There used to be a coal mine here called Bank Hall Pit. It was very busy. Coal was loaded onto barges to be delivered all over Burnley and beyond. The area around you was dirty and grimy. Things have changed a lot!

Towpath Task:

We are going on a habitat hunt. This area has lots of habitats for different animals to live. Look for evidence of animals. Look for tracks, droppings, feathers, fur or hair, burrow holes, trampled grass, scratches on surfaces or half eaten nuts.



Wildlife Watch

Feathered Friends

Look out for moorhens and coots on the canal. Both are black so which is which? The coot has a white beak and the moorhen is slightly smaller with a red one.



Look! What can you see?



Listen! What can you hear?