

Stoke Bruerne and Blisworth Tunnel - Grand Union Canal

Overview

This series of resources, including a museum trail and a trail along the towpath, gives children the opportunity to learn about the history of the Grand Union Canal near Stoke Bruerne and why the tunnel and tramway were built at Blisworth Hill.

The lesson provides a good introduction for children prior to visiting the National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne. Children can spot interesting artefacts as they follow the museum trail, and can then follow the towpath trail to Blisworth Tunnel.

The Curriculum

QCA Schemes of Work [KS2 History Unit 12 Victorian Britain](#)
[KS2 Design and Technology WOW Scheme of Work](#)

Resources

The following resources can be used to teach and learn about the history and development of the Grand Union Canal near Stoke Bruerne:

1. [Stoke Bruerne introductory lesson](#). This lesson explores the history of the Grand Union Canal near Stoke Bruerne and explains why Blisworth Tunnel was built. It provides a good introduction prior to visiting the National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne.
2. [Stoke Bruerne and Blisworth Tunnel information pack](#). This information pack enables children to discover the history of the Grand Union Canal and Blisworth Tunnel.
3. [Stoke Bruerne Museum Trail](#). Younger children can spot interesting artefacts as they explore the museum, while older children can answer questions about the displays.
4. [Stoke Bruerne Trail](#). This is a self-guided trail for teachers and children to use when visiting the National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne. The trail follows the same route as the audio guide issued free with tickets to the museum, and the trail worksheets can be used with the audio guide or quite independently.
5. [Stoke Bruerne Answers](#). This resource enables children to check their answers on the WOW website after going round the Stoke Bruerne Trail.

Teachers may also wish to use other resources available on the WOW website e.g.

[Locks information pack](#) This resource uses simple diagrams to explain how locks work.

[Lock Challenge](#) This animated game enables children to steer a narrow boat through a virtual reality lock. Both resources can be accessed on the kid's side of the website.

Health & Safety

The trail leads along the canal towpaths. 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, forward a risk assessment to the British Waterways South East Office and undertake an activity from the [Waterside Safety](#) resource.

Contact Details

Before organising an educational visit to the Stoke Bruerne Trail please contact:

Angela Brown - 01908 302543
angela.brown@britishwaterways.co.uk

To organise a school visit to the National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne:

Please telephone the museum on 01604 862229
or e-mail david.henderson@thewaterwaystrust.org

Web site: www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/museums/stoke.shtml