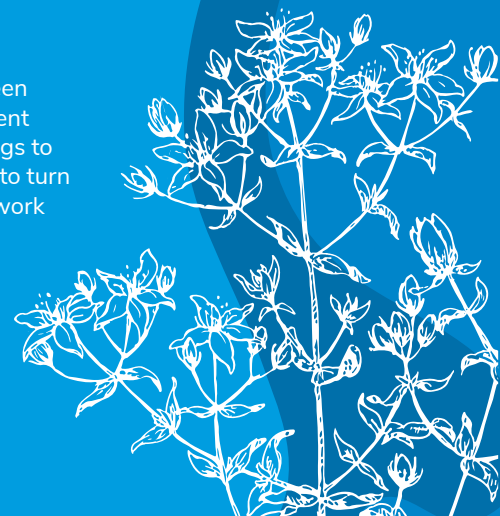




Walking on water

Plan a hike alongside a canal or other waterway to explore industrial history

Water is essential to human life. It also has many practical uses that have been harnessed over the millennia. In ancient Rome, Romans tapped thermal springs to create bath houses; the flow of rivers has been used to turn watermills for 6,000 years; and the British canal network transported raw materials and goods for centuries. Sometimes you can't even see where water is – all over the UK there are 'hidden rivers' flowing underground that have been built, sometimes to create roads or as flood defence.



Suitable for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers

You will need

- an Ordnance Survey map
- appropriate footwear, such as walking shoes/boots
- all-weather hiking clothes
- rucksack, water bottles and packed lunches

Instructions

1 Before starting, check out the Hillwalking page of scouts.org.uk for relevant rules and guidance.


2 Ask the group to plan a hike, which could be done during a camp. The route should include local towpaths, hidden rivers or other waterways with points of interest such as locks, hydro power, a dam or watermill.


3 Before starting the hike, ask each group to think up different ways they use water at home and how they think it might be used in industry, either today or in the past. Share with them the methods provided in the introduction to this activity.

4 The young people should work together to plan the best route, using an Ordnance Survey map. They should think about what water-related features they might see, such as bridges, locks, watermills and drains.

5 Begin your hike. When you reach a waterway feature, ask the young people how they think it works and how it might have been used in the past.

Time needed
3 hours

Badge

GO Outdoors partners the Hikes Away Staged Activity Badge

Partner


Outcomes
Your section will learn how water has been used for the purposes of people and industry over the centuries and continues to play an important role today. They will also practise their map reading skills.

More information
Go to nationalparks.gov.uk for more in-depth information about hikes for all ages and abilities. And to find out more about GO Outdoors, visit: scouts.org.uk/gooutdoors.