

Describing the Somerset Coal Canal with a haiku

Haiku (俳句 *high-koo*) poetry originated in Japan and uses language to capture a feeling or impression of a place. A haiku is limited to 17 syllables and must consist of only three lines with the structure of five-seven-five syllables.

Activity

1. Look at the image below. It shows part of the now abandoned Somerset Coal Canal near Combe Hay in Somerset.



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2. Generate a list of 10 words to describe the image above.
3. Use your list of words to create the first line of the haiku. This must have five syllables only. It will describe one aspect of the image, for example, the landscape could be:

A skyline of trees *or*
Trees touching the sky *or*
A wooded landscape *or*
Green quiet countryside

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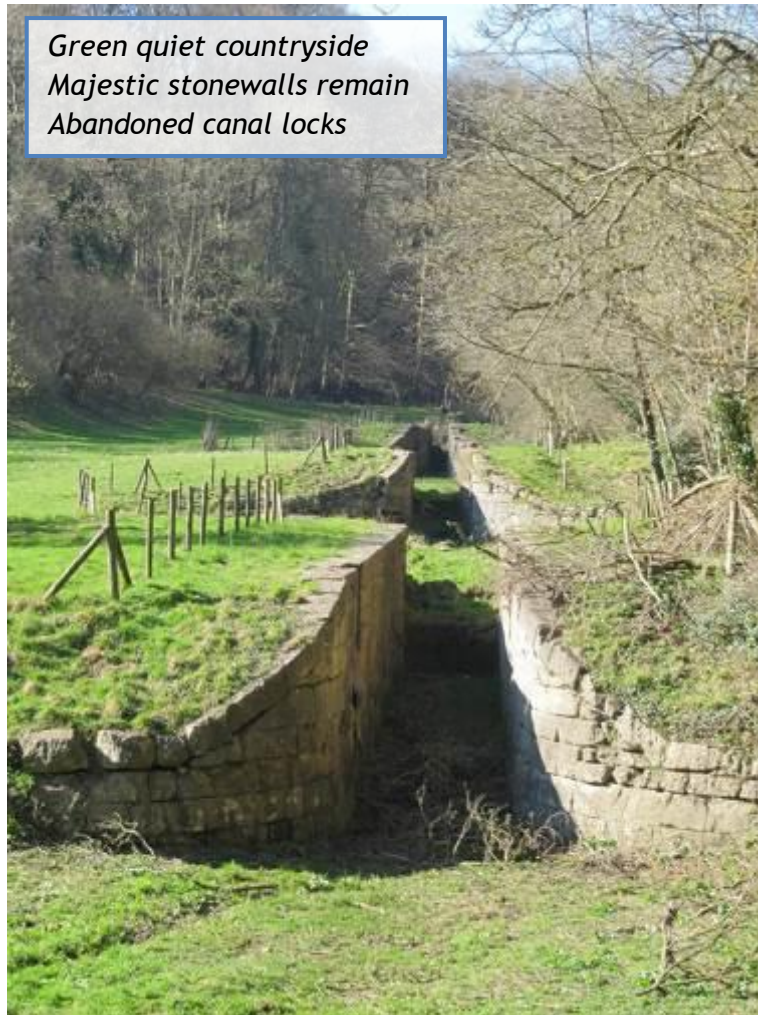
4. Generate the second line of the haiku. Use **seven** syllables only. This could use the stone lined walls of the canal for example:

Majestic stonewalls remain *or*
A narrow stone passageway *or*
Marching across the landscape *or*
Silently climbing upwards

5. Create the final line of the haiku using **five** syllables. This could attempt to describe the history and industrial past of the landscape, for example:

Industrial past *or*
Derelict canal *or*
Abandoned canal locks *or*
What stories hide here?

Green quiet countryside
Majestic stonewalls remain
Abandoned canal locks



Locks 12-14 of the Combe Hay flight on the Somerset Coal Canal

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6. Create two further haiku poems using these images below:



The first of the flight of locks at Combe Hay

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The first section of the Somerset Coal Canal

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This resource is one of a group of resources for KS1, 2 and 3 on the Somerset Coal Canal and coalfield.

More information from the [Somersetshire Coal Canal Society](http://www.somersetshirecoalcanal.org.uk).

