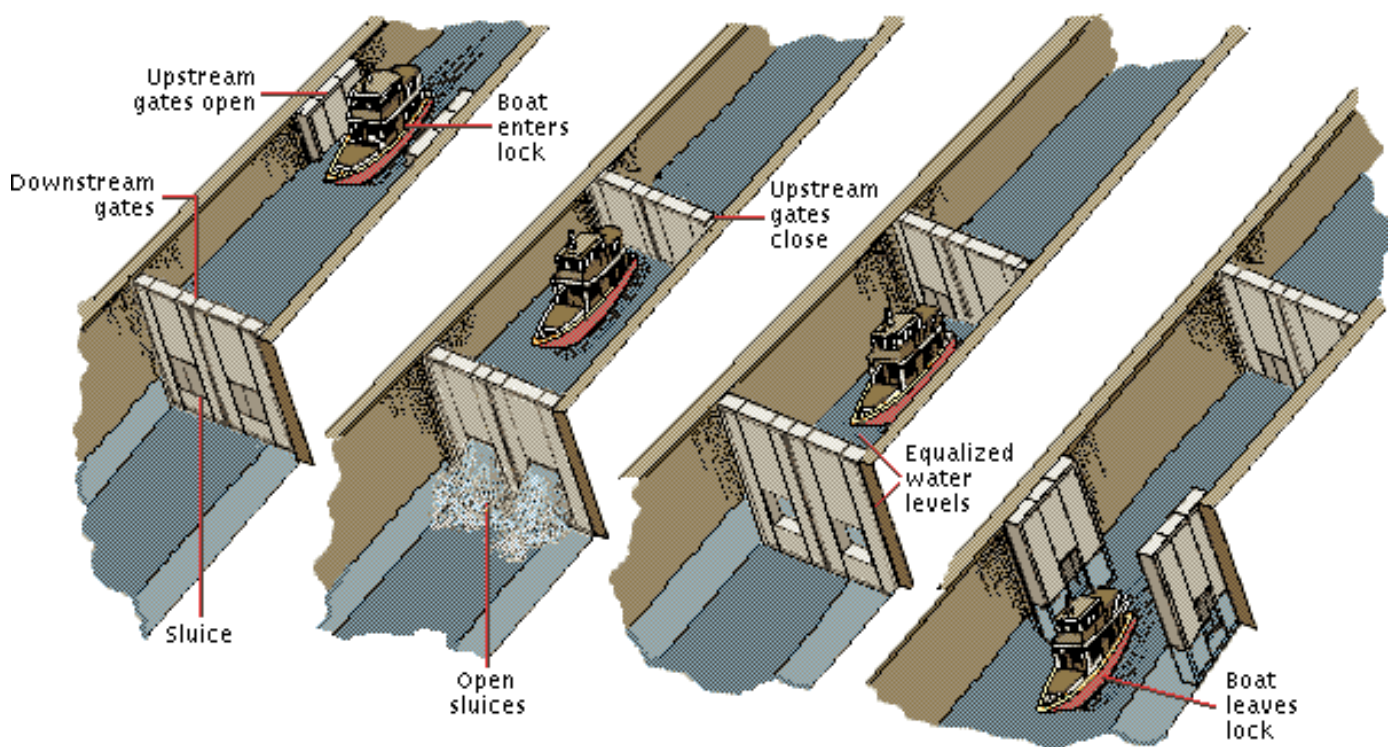


CANAL LOCKS

Canals are man-made. People made canals so that they could move coal, food and other things from one place to another on barges or narrowboats. Today there are about 2000 miles of canals in England and Wales. Many of the canals were made about 250 years ago.

Canals have to go up or down hills as they go across the country. Sometimes they go through a hillside in a long dark tunnel, and sometimes they go over a valley on a bridge. Sometimes locks are built so that the canal can go up the hill and down the other side.



The picture shows the canal going downhill. Gates are built across the canal to shut the water in at each end of the lock.

The boat comes into the lock. The gates close behind the boat.

Water is let out of the gates in front of the boat. The water level in the lock goes down. Then the water in the lock gets to the same level as the water in front of the gates. Then the gates open and the boat goes on its way.

Sometimes several locks are needed if the canal has to go up or down a steep hill. At Hatton, near Birmingham on the Grand Union Canal, there are 21 locks which are like a staircase to get the boats up and down the hill.

HOW CANAL LOCKS WORK

Canals need to have as a way of going or down hills. The picture shows the going downhill. Gates are across the canal to the water in at each of the lock. The boat into the lock. The gates close the boat. Water is let of the gates in of the boat. The water in the lock goes down. Then the in the lock gets to the level as the water in front of the The gates and the boat on its way. Sometimes locks are needed the canal has to up or down a hill.

Sometimes lifts are used of locks, if the is very steep.

front	gates	boat	shut	same	out
hill	water	end	go	instead	level
comes	canal	up	built	locks	steep
behind	if	goes	open	several	