

How a canal works

This media is available in the web edition only.

Canals operate by a series of *locks* that raise and lower water levels. In this animation, the boat enters the lock from downstream, where the water level is lower. The gate shuts behind it, and water is allowed to flow in from upstream, raising the water level in the lock until the boat can move forward.

On the web

An interactive animation

http://www.pragmasoft.be/carnets/geo/ecluse/ecluse_simulation.html

This interactive simulation lets you operate an animated canal yourself.

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