

The Floods of 1953

Resource Pack for Schools



This pack has been commissioned by the Essex Record Office and was created by Pippa Smith of Handling the Past <http://handlingthepast.co.uk/> working with the support of a range of partners.

The pack contains three PowerPoints and Teachers Notes with background to the events of January 31st, 1953, along with some suggestions for class activities linked to the PowerPoints. Activities have also been provided by the Environment Agency.

The photographs, audio recordings, maps used are also provided as individual files to help you create your own activities.

Contents

PowerPoint 1 Why did the floods happen?

PowerPoint 2 Canvey Island Floods

PowerPoint 3 What keeps us safe today?

Teachers' pack

Environment Agency resources

- Emergency bag activity cards
- Flood game
- My flood plan
- My school flood plan

Photographs used in the PowerPoints

Canvey Island Floods

Slide	Photograph filenames (all are .jpg)
Slide 2	Small Gains Creek Air photo
Slide 3	Rainbow Rd 1 Denham and Long Road
Slide 4	Lakeside Corner
Slide 5	Jones Corner
Slide 6	Craven Avenue Craven Avenue 2
Slide 7	Air Photo 2
Slide 10	Plaque
Slide 11	Bill Pilgrim
Slide 13	Gills Avenue Long Road
Slide 15	Army carrying couple Carried by soldiers
Slide 16	Rescue Lady with cat
Slide 17	Bear

Slide 18	Pig Animals
Slide 19	PDSA 2 PDSA 3 Cats Chicken
Slide 21	Evacuees
Slide 22	Phillips brothers
Slide 24	Unloading sandbags Fire Brigade
Slide 25	Scouts cleaning up
Slide 26	Clearing up

What keeps us safe today?

Slide	Photograph filenames (all are .jpg)
Slide 2	Defences 1953
Slide 3	Seafront 70s 1 Seafront 70s 2

Audio recordings used in the Canvey Floods Powerpoint, from the Essex Sound and Video Archive

Slide	Recording filenames (all are .mp3)
Slide 8	Mrs Rudd
Slide 9	Donald and Thelma Payne
Slide 12	Bill Pilgrim
Slide 14	Geoff Barsby
Slide 20	Alan Whitcomb

Transcripts and additional information about each audio recording

Maps used in the Teachers' Pack

Canvey flood map
Location of deaths

People who help us comparison

Additional resources

There are thousands of photographs on the Canvey Community Archive alongside stories and memories of people who lived through the floods.

<https://www.canveyisland.org/category/history-2/floods/flood-photos>

Please note that some of the memories are potentially upsetting.

There is a documentary made in 1953 which has been digitised by the Essex Record Office <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6sggRX1JKw> This again has some potentially upsetting details.

You can search Historic England's collection of Air Photographs here <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>

There were several photographs taken on February 2nd 1953, for example

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/EAWo48235>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/EAWo48249>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/EAWo48242>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/EAWo48246>

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