

Glossary

Bridge

A structure carrying a road, path or railway over a river.



Canal

A human-made waterway to allow boats to travel.



Cill

A horizontal structure that forms the base of a lock gate.

Current

How fast the water in a river or stream is moving.

Cold water shock

The body's emergency response to being suddenly submerged in cold water.

Dive

To plunge headfirst into water.



Dock

A closed off area of water used for the loading, unloading, and repair of ships.



Hypothermia

When the body's core temperature drops dangerously low.

Inland body of water

A large area of water surrounded by land, for example a lake or pond.



Lake

A large area of water surrounded by land.



Life-ring

A floating device used in emergencies to prevent someone from drowning.



Lock

A device used for raising and lowering boats on canals. The water on either side of the lock gate can vary greatly in depth.



Reservoir

A large lake used to supply people with water, these are often human-made.



River

A natural, wide flow of fresh water; deeper and wider than a stream.



Sluice

A sliding gate used to control the flow of water.



Water safety signs

Danger - shallow water

This means it would not be safe to dive in as the person would hit a hard surface.



Warning - deep water

This means the water is very deep so not suitable for nonswimmers and could cause drowning.



Beware - strong currents

This means the water current is strong and can carry someone a long way down the river.



Do not swim

This means the water is not safe to swim in.



Waterway

This term describes all routes of travel by water, for example rivers and canals.



Weir

A low dam built across a river to regulate its flow.

