

KS2 CANAL MANIA

Thomas Telford

BLACK COUNTRY
LIVING
MUSEUM



Menai Suspension Bridge

By Talsarnau Times

[CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

By Dr Neil Clifton

[CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons



PIONEER OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Thomas Telford (1757-1834)

Telford was born near Westkirk, in Scotland. He came from a poor family, working as a shepherd to help supplement the family before leaving school at the age of 14 to become an apprentice stonemason.

Through a mixture of skill, hard work and study he was to become one of the country's most famous civil engineers. He was renowned in his day as the "Colossus of Roads", responsible for the construction of nearly 1000 miles (1600 km) of road and over 1000 bridges. He was also involved in the construction of

harbours, churches and canals. In addition to improving the Birmingham Canal Navigations, he constructed the Ellesmere Canal, and the Caledonian Canal (running 60 miles (96 km) from the west to the east coasts).

Among his many achievements are the 579ft span wrought iron Menai Suspension Bridge (1826), Chirk Aqueduct (1801) and the revolutionary Pontcysyllte Aqueduct (1805).

