

River Investigation Learnlink - Generic

About the Activity

During this activity groups investigate a river from source to mouth. Concepts such as the water cycle, river features, erosion, transportation, deposition, land use and human impact are discussed. Data collected includes width, depth, sediment size and velocity – all of which are recorded on hand held pcs.

Activity Aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Introduce the river investigation and the equipment needed for the activity.
- Allow each participant to collect, record and analyse data.
- Ensure participants work together supporting and encouraging each other.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Understanding of the water cycle and the role rivers take in the cycle.
- Identified and observed the main features of the river.
- Understood the importance of a fair test and accurate data collection.
- Observed both the effect of the river on land use and human impact upon the river.
- Made predictions on what will happen throughout the course of the river.
- Learn to understand the importance of safety, risk, risk assessment, hazards and rules.
- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- Understanding of the importance of teamwork.
- Consolidated and then improved abilities such as fieldwork skills through performance.
- Contributed to a post activity review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Progression Opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Independently offer explanations for observed river features.
- Relate river observations/work to rivers elsewhere.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.
- Be able to assess risks and understand how these may be controlled.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal Communication
- Teamwork

Associated Vocabulary:

Words relevant to safety e.g. boundaries, hazards, risk assessment, rules.

Words relevant to equipment e.g. callipers, digital camera, flow meter, metre ruler, pocket pc, tape measure.

Words relevant to the activity e.g. artificial channel, channel, confluence, dam, deposition, drain, estuary, management, meander, mouth, pollution, rainfall, river, rock, sediment, source, spring, stream, transportation, tributary, velocity, water cycle, weir.

Words relevant to teamwork e.g. achievement, decision making, discussion, encouragement, instruction, listening, opinion, participation, responsibility.