



Water flowing across the land



Description: Examine a river/stream to find out where it comes from and where it goes and what might change as you travel down it.

QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:

Year 3 Unit 6: Investigating our local area

National Curriculum Geography reference:

1a, 2a, 2d, 2e, 3a, 3e, 4a

QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:

Year 3 Unit 3A: Combining text and graphics

Learning Objectives: Pupils should be taught to interpret key geographical features from direct observation and/or secondary evidence and to add labels to base maps and diagrams.

Suggested activities:

Introduction: Start by asking children question 'What is a river?' Show a selection of photographs of different water features. Each time asking the question 'Is this a river?' Encourage the children to give their reasons why one is a river and another photograph is not.

Main teaching topic: Examine a range of photographs taken at different points down the course of a river (see <http://www.sln.org.uk/trentweb/>). At each point engage the children in observing things that change between each photograph. Key points are colour of water in river, shape of valley sides, steepness of valley, width of river, speed of river, river features, what the land alongside the river is used for (settlement, industry, recreation etc).

Pupil activities: Complete activity sheets 3a1, 3a2 and 3a3.

Resources:

Web site:

- <http://www.sln.org.uk/trentweb/> and choose option 'Take a trip'
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/28022/?tqskip1=1&tqtime=0305> - for other river features e.g. waterfalls

Learning outcomes:

Children will be able to define in geographical terms what a river is and in what way rivers might change over their course. Some children will be able place key river features into the correct sequence of where they might occur along the journey of a river.

Extension activities:

Using local maps identify the nearest river/stream to the school. Find out as much as you can about this river/stream. What is special about your river/stream? How does it compare with the River Trent? Has your river/stream ever been in the news? Why?