



Why are rivers important to us?



Description: Discovering the various uses that rivers are put too and the potential conflicts of interest that might occur.

QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:

Year 4 Unit 8: Improving the environment

National Curriculum Geography reference:

QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:

Year 4 Unit 4D: Collecting and presenting information

Learning Objectives: Pupils should be taught the function and importance of rivers and who uses and protects them.

Suggested activities:

Introduction: Discuss with children who might use a river, what those uses might be. The Trentweb website is a good starting point for discussion. Make a class list of suggestions. Ask the children to state why they think rivers are important to us.

Main: Looking at the list of users, identify which users could be potentially in conflict with each other and how conflict of interest might occur. Who looks after our rivers and resolves these conflicts?

Extensions: Children could write an article for the local newspaper in support of a particular river use – Literacy ‘Persuasive writing’

Resources:

Websites:

- <http://www.sln.org.uk/trentweb/> Uses and Conservation links
- <http://www.naturegrid.org.uk/rivers/gtst-intro.html> for pollution threats to rivers
- <http://hygdahl.mmu.ac.uk/c-a/edu/streamwatch/> for monitoring river pollution

Learning outcomes:

- Understanding of why rivers are important to us
- Who uses our river systems
- Using ICT to find information on the web

Extension activities:

The children could investigate how the use of rivers has changed over time and what is causing the current increase in pressure on our river systems.