



Investigating rivers



Description: Assessing how rivers erode, transport and deposit materials

QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:

Year 6 Unit 14: Investigating rivers

National Curriculum Geography reference:

QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:

Year 6 Unit 6A: Multimedia presentation

Learning Objectives: Pupils should be taught how rivers erode, transport and deposit materials.

Suggested activities:

Introduction: Explain to the children that rivers are active forces that can change the landscape they flow over. They make these changes by removing material from the sides and bed of a river (erosion), by transferring this eroded material to new locations (transportation) and by placing the transported material at a new location (deposition). The rivers ability to carry out any of these processes is influenced by the slope of the river (gradient), the volume of the river, the rocks through which the river channel flows and the shape of the river channel (cross-sectional area). Ask children where they would expect the greatest amount of erosion to take place, the greatest amount of deposition and the greatest amount of transportation.

Main: Pick a series of river photographs and ask the children to arrange them in sequence from the source to the mouth. Label each photograph where evidence of erosion, transportation and deposition occur. Using internet links <http://www.learn.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=Unit&WCU=17238> and <http://www.learn.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=Unit&WCU=17235> explain the various methods that rivers can erode, transport and deposit material.

Resources:

- <http://www.angelfire.com/ga2/ibgeography/rivers.html> summary of processes
- <http://www.learn.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=Unit&WCU=17238> river erosion
- <http://www.learn.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=Unit&WCU=17235> river transportation

Learning outcomes:

- Knowledge of the processes of river erosion, transportation and deposition
- Knowledge that these processes can vary over time and by location
- Using ICT to find information

Extension activities:

- <http://www.learn.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=SubUnit&WCU=17237> label the load of a river
- <http://www.learn.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=SubUnit&WCU=17240> true and false statements on river erosion

Children could create a Powerpoint presentation using a set of images to illustrate river erosion, transportation and deposition and present to the rest of the class.