



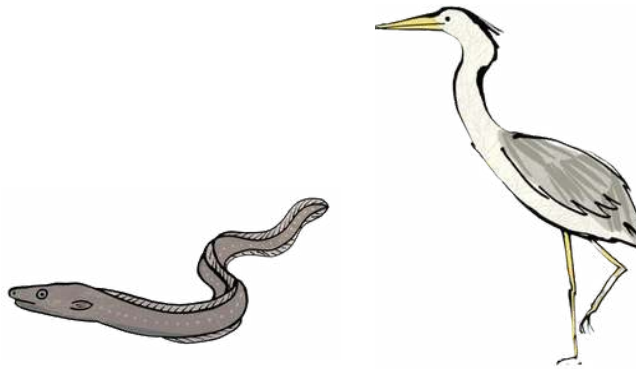
Educational Activities

Fun activities to do at home or at school to learn about rivers and related issues.

These sets of activities were first developed as part of our Home Education programme launched during the first Covid 19 lockdown.

Each set includes a series of six activities around a different theme. Four themes are covered altogether. They include:

1. River Wildlife
2. River Features
3. Saving Water
4. Rainwater



Activities have been designed by a qualified teacher, include a learning objective and are curriculum-linked. They are aimed at 7-9 year-olds with a 'Support' idea for younger children and a 'Challenge' suggestion for older children. A grey heron will direct you to these on each instruction sheet!

Before you begin

Why not create a River Journal?

Great for keeping all your work in one place!

For instructions for making one click [here](#).

Make sure you give yours a river theme.

Additional pages can be used for river sketching, recording river finds, poems, stories or other river related activities.



We also run river education sessions as part of Project Kingfisher and have a range of fun activities for children and families to do on their visit to a river on our Junior River Ranger pages. Go to our website to find out more.



1. River Wildlife Introduction

Meet some of the animals that make UK rivers their home.

Learning objective: To describe, compare and classify river animals.

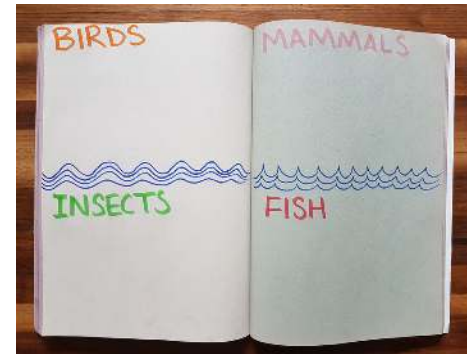
You will need:

- 2 pages of your River Journal or 2 sheets of paper
- Something to write with
- Scissors and glue (optional)
- 'Animal Info Sheet' - page 2 of this document (printed or on screen)

Instructions:

1

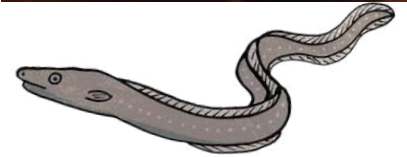
Divide the 2 pages or 2 sheets of paper in half by drawing a line across the middle of each one. Write one of these words in each section you have made: Birds, Mammals, Insects, Fish.



TIP: If you have an A3 sheet of paper, make the 4 sections by folding it in half and in half again.

2

Next, using the Animal Info Sheet, match the animals pictured to each category. Each box should have 2 animals in it.



3

Now, match the facts on the Animal Info Sheet to each box. Each box should have 1 fact of each colour.

If you can print:

- Print the 'Animal Info Sheet', cut out the pictures & facts and glue them in place.

4

When you are done, tell someone which of these animals is your favourite and explain why.

Extra: Ask a parent to post your response on our [Facebook group](#).

If you can't print:

- Write the animal names and facts in each box.



Support

Instead of completing this task for all four categories, choose just two (ie. Birds and Fish).

Challenge

Find out an additional interesting fact about one animal from each category by visiting: www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer

Animal Info Sheet

Print this sheet and cut along the dotted lines.

If you can't print, write the animal names and facts on your sheet instead.



Ruddy Darter Dragonfly



Water vole



Grey Heron



Kingfisher



Roach



Banded Damselfly



European Eel



European Otter

Has fins

**Covered in feathers
(plumage)**

**Has 2 pairs of
wings (4 wings)**

Has 2 legs

**Has a hard body
(exoskeleton)**

Has whiskers

Has 6 legs

**Covered in slippery skin
or scales**

Has a beak

Has 4 legs

Covered in fur

Has gills



2. Measurement Scavenger Hunt

Learning objective: To relate units of measure to real life objects

You will need:

- Ruler or measuring tape
- Scissors
- Scrap paper
- Tape

If you don't have a ruler, use the Measurement Sheet on the page 2.

Instructions:

1

Create a strip of paper to match the length or height of each of these river animals. Write the name of the animal on each strip.

TIP: You may need to tape more than one piece of paper together for some of the bigger animals.

2

For each of the animals, find an object around your house that matches that animal's length or height.

3

If you can, photograph each object alongside the strip of paper or photograph your whole set. Print your photo and add it to your River Journal.

4

Extra: Ask a parent's permission to share your the photo on our [Facebook group](#).



Ruddy Darter Dragonfly
4 cm



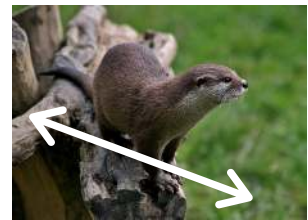
Water vole
18 cm



Grey Heron
94 cm



European Eel
100 cm



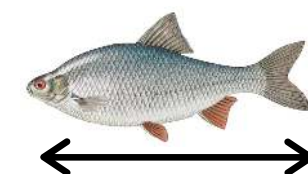
European Otter
70 cm



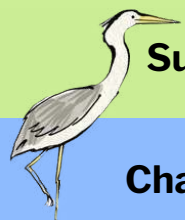
Kingfisher
16 cm



Banded Damselfly
4.5 cm



Roach
35 cm



Support

Use the Measurement Sheet on the following page and complete the activity for just 4 animals.

Challenge

For each animal write the measurement on the strip in 2 units of measure (cm / mm OR cm / m).

Measurement Sheet

To help you, or if you don't have a ruler, print these strips, cut them out and tape them together as instructed. Then you can use them as a guide to the size of each animal.

Dragonfly 4 cm

Kingfisher 16 cm

Roach 35 cm - tape 2 orange strips together

Roach 35 cm - tape 2 orange strips together

Eel 100 cm - tape 4 grey strips together

Eel 100 cm - tape 4 grey strips together

Eel 100 cm - tape 4 grey strips together

Eel 100 cm - tape 4 grey strips together



3. Animal Sketching Game



Learning objective:

To observe the features of a variety of animals.

You will need:

- Paper or your River Journal
- A pencil or marker pen to draw with
- A partner (if possible)

Instructions:

1

Choose one of the river animals from the list. Find out exactly what it looks like by going to this website: www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer and typing the name of the animal in the box OR search for images online.

2

Take it in turns to draw the animal - **ONE BODY PART AT A TIME!** For example, look at the shape of the body and sketch it. Then pass the sketch to your partner to draw the next body part. They might choose to add: head, tail, gills, fins, legs, eyes, ears, feet, whiskers, beak, wings.

TIP: If you don't have a partner, you can complete this on your own, still sketching ONE BODY PART at a time!

3

Keep passing the sketch between you and your partner drawing one body part at a time until the sketch is complete. Label each body part.

4

Write the name of the animal on the sketch. Repeat with another animal. Continue until you have one sketch of each type of animal: bird, mammal, insect and fish.

Animals:



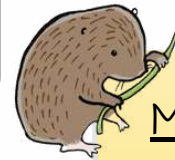
Birds

- Kingfisher
- Grey Heron



Insects

- Dragonfly
- Damselfly



Mammals

- Otter (European)
- Water Vole

Fish

- Eel (European)
- Roach



EXTRA: Photograph one of your sketches and ask an adult to post it on our [Facebook group](#).

Support

Use the Body Part Guide on the next page to help you choose what body parts to draw for each animal.

Challenge

Don't just use online images to help you with your sketch. Research the animal's appearance by reading websites and watching videos.



Body Part Guide

Use this body part guide to help you think of all the parts you could include for each animal.

Birds

Kingfisher or Grey Heron

- Body
- Wings
- Legs
- Feet
- Head
- Beak
- Eyes
- Tail

Insects

Damselfly or Dragonfly

- Top body part (thorax)
- Bottom body part (abdomen)
- Head
- Legs
- Wings
- Eyes

Fish

Roach or Eel

- Body
- Fins
- Gills
- Tail
- Eyes
- Mouth

Mammals

Otter or Water Vole

- Body
- Head
- Ears
- Eyes
- Nose
- Mouth
- Tail
- Feet



4. Descriptive Writing

Learning objective: To write a descriptive text about a river animal.

You will need:

- Paper or your River Journal
- Pen or pencil to write with
- Pictures of your chosen animal to inspire you

Instructions:

1

Choose a river animal to write about. Begin by writing a title at the top of the page that includes alliteration - that means add an adjective that starts with the same letter.

2

Introduce your animal by writing a sentence that says what type of animal it is.

3

Write a simile that describes its size. Include one of these phrases: ...as small as..., ..as big as..., as tall as... OR ...as long as... You could use objects from Activity 2.

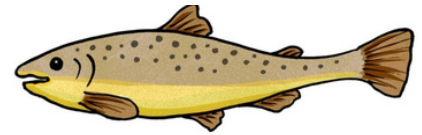
4

Next, begin describing what it looks like. For each body part include 1 or 2 adjectives and added detail (using 'with' or 'that'). Continue until you have described the whole animal.

5

Finish off, by writing a sentence that explains why you like this animal and add an interesting fact in a 'Did you know?' section.

To help, I will give an example of each step using my favourite river animal - the BROWN TROUT!



Brilliant Brown Trout

↑ alliteration ↑



The brown trout is a fish.

It is as long as my arm.

simile ↑
(includes as)

It has a long, sleek body that is covered in spots.

2 adjectives ↓ ↓
↑ added detail

I like this animal because it is a sign of a clean river.

Did you know?
Brown Trout can live up to 20 years!

EXTRA: Take a picture of your work and ask an adult to post it on our [Facebook group](#).

Support

For STEP 4, describe three body parts using adjectives.

It has a spotty body and a yellow belly. It has two, big, round eyes.

Challenge

Include scientific language like: segmented, plumage, abdomen, vertebrate, camouflage, transparent, exoskeleton.

The brown trout is a fierce predator that preys on other fish.



5. Wildlife Drawing



Learning objective: To use drawing to record observations.

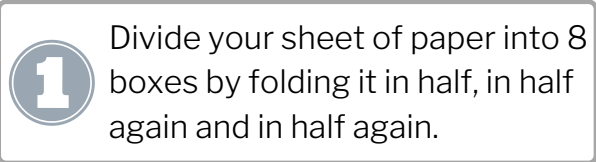

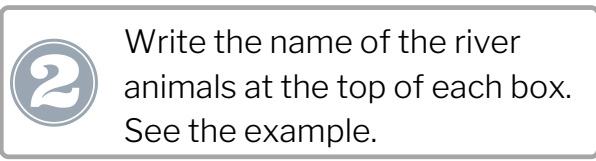
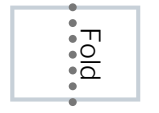
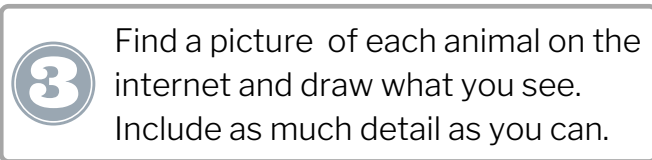
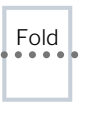
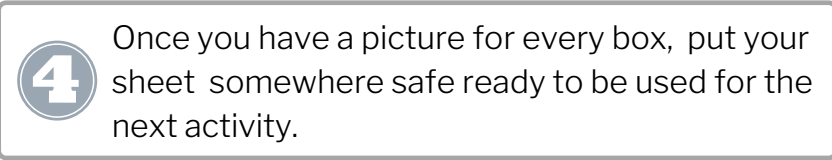
The drawings made for this activity will be used for the game in the next activity.









You will need:

- A sheet of paper or card (not your River Journal)
- Coloured pencils or other drawing materials
- Pictures of your chosen animal to inspire you

Your sheet should look like this but with lovely hand drawn pictures instead!
You can choose to just draw the animal or include a background.

Instructions:

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Banded Damselfly 	Ruddy Darter Dragonfly 	Water Vole 	Otter 
Kingfisher 	Grey Heron 	Eel 	Roach 

EXTRA: Photograph one of your drawings and ask an adult to post it on our [Facebook group](#).



Support

Use other people's drawings for inspiration. Type the name of the animal and 'drawing' in the search box when looking for images.

Challenge

Use different materials for your pictures. Try a pen drawing - using just one coloured pen, or charcoal, pastels, coloured pencils, felt tips - whatever art supplies you can find at home!



6. Who Am I? Game

Learning objective: To formulate, listen and respond to questions.

You will need:

- Your sheet of illustrations from Activity 5
- Scissors
- A headband (or strip of fabric to tie around your head)
- A partner or group of people to play with



Instructions:

1

Cut along the fold lines of your sheet of illustrations to create 8 animal cards.

2

Choose one player to go first. Put the headband on or tie the fabric around their head.

3

Another player must select an animal card and insert it into the headband without the first player seeing it.

4

The aim of THIS game is for the player to guess the animal in EXACTLY 10 QUESTIONS. They must ask questions about the animal that have YES or NO answers to figure out what animal it is. Keep thinking of questions until you have asked 10!

TIP: Use these question starters:

**Do I..? Do I have...?
Am I...?**

You LOSE if:

- You guess before asking 10 questions
- You ask a questions that cannot be answered with a YES or NO
- You guess the wrong animal - you can only make one guess

You WIN if:

- You guess the correct animal within 10 questions

Am I a mammal?
Do I have a beak?
Do I lay eggs? ?



Repeat with another player.



Support

Refer to the work you did for Activity 1 'River Wildlife Introduction' and Activity 3 'Animal Sketching Game' to help you think of questions.

Challenge

Increase the target number of questions to 12 and include some of the scientific language suggested in Activity 4 'Descriptive Writing'.