

Year 3 Topic

Flow



Get your wellies on and let's wade right in!

In this learning project, we'll visit a local river to find out what lives there, where the river is going and how fast it's travelling. At the river, we'll collect water and soil samples and catch river creatures. We'll examine the samples at school to investigate how clean the water is. Using our creativity, we'll write journals as river travellers and journey on an imaginary boat to rivers around the world. We'll make working models of water wheels, investigate the water cycle and use natural materials to make models that demonstrate river formation. Our descriptive river poetry will capture the movement of water, and we'll mix watercolours to create beautiful paintings in art. Our map reading and research skills will help us to find out about world famous rivers. In PE, we'll play team games to 'cross the river' in the hall without falling in!

At the end of the project, we'll create a newsflash to explain what we've learnt, build a bridge and sculpt messy mud rivers outdoors.

Help your child prepare for their project

Rivers are interesting places that are full of life. Why not visit a local river or stream together to spot river plants and creatures? You could also use online maps to zoom in on famous rivers around the world. Alternatively, take soil samples from your garden and look closely at their colour, texture and content.

What will you choose to do?

- How many songs can you list that mention water or rivers? Get your family and friends to help, and then have some fun singing a selection!
- Help organise your family's recycling, taking the glass to a bottle bank or visiting your local household waste recycling centre.
- Visit a river and test the flow by playing Pooh sticks. It's easy... just drop a stick from a bridge into the water and let it race your friends' sticks under the bridge!
- Visit a gallery and look at river paintings. Why do you think so many artists are inspired by water? Draw, paint or take photos of a beautiful river scene.
- Grow something edible. Potatoes are easy to grow and tasty to eat!
- Be a landscape gardener! Visit a garden centre and look at water features. Could you make one in your garden? You'll need water, soil, pipes, jugs and maybe some pretty stones.
- Go pond dipping. Take a net and a light-coloured bowl or bucket to get a good view of your collected specimens. Remember to put back any creatures you catch.
- Help a member of your family to wash a car, or visit an automatic carwash. Which method do you think uses the least water?
- Make a rain gauge and use it to measure rainfall in your garden.
- Put on wellies on a wet day and go on a puddle expedition. See who can find the biggest puddle, then splash through it!
- Place different items in a puddle or water-filled container to see which ones float and which ones sink. Maybe not your adult's mobile phone.
- Experiment with water current. See if you can make things move in or across water without touching them.
- Make rainbows with a garden hose on a sunny day. Are you dressed for a water fight?
- Watch raindrops race down a window. Choose one to watch and see what happens as it meanders down and comes into contact with other droplets.
- Find out how to save water around the home. Make a list of top tips to advise your family on water conservation.
- At the supermarket, check out and compare the ingredients of household cleaning products. Many contain harmful chemicals which are washed down the drain. Encourage your adults to buy eco-friendly products, or even make your own from natural substances like vinegar and lemon juice.