

Your Local Area: Teachers' Notes

Author: Ruth Thomson

This series of six books offers ideas for how children can take part in a practical investigation of a local area. There are five photocopyable worksheets for each book. Some are templates for charts and group surveys. Children can take these out to complete, when investigating their locality. Others are class-based activities with space for observations or drawings, or pictures to label, compare or sort. The activities will help consolidate children's learning about key ideas in the books. Children will need access to the books in order to complete many of the tasks.

HOMES

The **Homes** worksheets ask children to identify different types of homes and ways of marking the boundaries of their space, as well as identifying features of houses, the services they use and their names or numbers.

Worksheets: Types of homes; A boundaries survey; Label a house; Services in your home; Design a name plaque

RIVERS

The **Rivers** worksheets include geographical tasks about identifying the facets of a river, recording signs and leisure activities, as well as emphasising the importance of river safety and a chart to record personal water use.

Worksheets: Parts of a river; Signs and names; Leisure activities: River safety; My own water use

SCHOOL

The **School** worksheets help children to look closer at their school environment, both indoors and outdoors, to discover who works at their school and to notice clues about old school buildings.

Worksheets: Improving the school environment; Noisy or quiet?; Playtime; People who work at school; An old school

SEASIDE

The **Seaside** worksheets emphasise the seasonal nature of holidays, jobs, activities and shops for children to compare with their own local area and also ask children to compare seaside holidays in the past with now.

Worksheets: Seaside holidays now and then; Beach shops; Seaside jobs; Seaside activities; Seaside weather (To undertake this last task, ask children to consult the website www.wunderground.com/global/uk.html to plot seasonal weather averages on the chart.)

SHOPS

The **Shops** worksheets look at different types of shopping experiences in a shopping mall, high street and local convenience store, ask children to consider their family's own shopping habits and encourage observation of shops signs.

Worksheets: Spot the difference; A high street survey; Convenience store goods; My family's shopping habits; Shop signs

TRANSPORT

The **Transport** worksheets encourage children to look more closely at local traffic flow, road signs and safety features on roads, as well as looking at different types of transport and goods vehicles.

Worksheets: A traffic survey; Road signs; Slow down!; A vehicle chart; Lorry spotting



Name: _____ Date: _____

Parts of a river

Use these descriptions of different parts of a river to label the pictures below.

A meander is a large natural bend in a river.

A waterfall is a place where a stream or river falls over a steep drop.

An estuary is the wildest part of a river where fresh water meets the sea.

Rapids are a steep, shallow, fast-flowing rocky stretch of a stream.

Many rivers start as a **mountain stream**.











Learning objective: To identify the physical features of different parts of a river .



Name: Date:

Signs and names

Look near a river for signs and names that give you a clue about past or present river activities or buildings.



Record one of the signs you see in the box below. Explain what the sign tells you about the past or present activity on the river.

Learning objective: To select and record from first-hand observation.



Name: _____ Date: _____

My own water use

Use this chart to record how many litres of water you use in a day.
Can you think of any ways to reduce your water use?

Activity	amount of water (litres)	number of times	total number of litres used
flushing toilet	7	x	=
bath	80	x	=
shower	30	x	=
hot or cold drink	0.3	x	=
brushing teeth (tap running)	5	x	=
brushing teeth (tap off)	1	x	=
washing hands and face	5	x	=
Total amount of water (in litres) used in a day:			

Fill in the chart again once you have tried to reduce your water use.
What do you notice?

Learning objective: To collect and record evidence to answer a question.



Name: _____ Date: _____

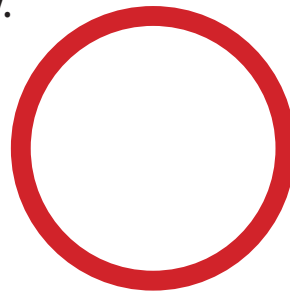
River safety

Rivers can be dangerous. The water may be cold and deeper than you think. There may be hidden currents. The banks may be slippery to climb. Water safety signs warn of dangers.

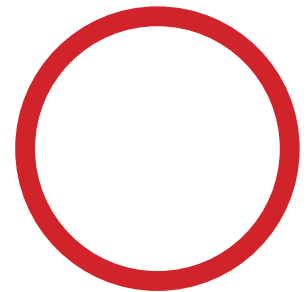
Look up www.rosipa.com/leisuresafety/Info/WaterSafety/national-watersafety-signs.pdf. Learn what the water safety signs mean. Copy the pictures for the signs below.



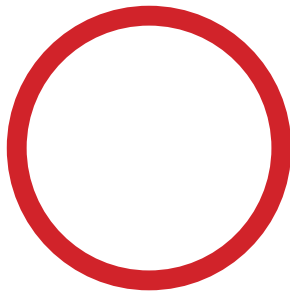
Signs inside red circles tell you what NOT to do.



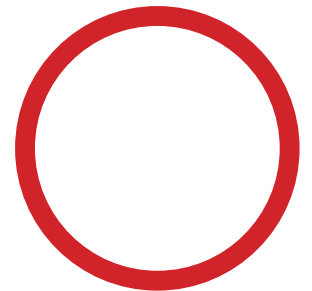
No swimming



No diving



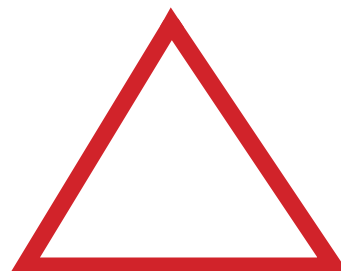
No running



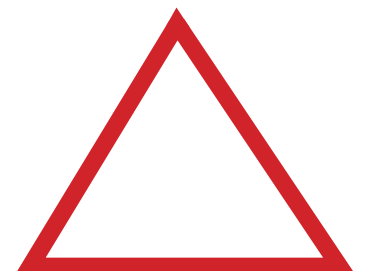
No fishing



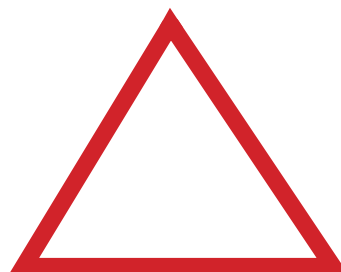
Black signs on a yellow background warn of possible dangers.



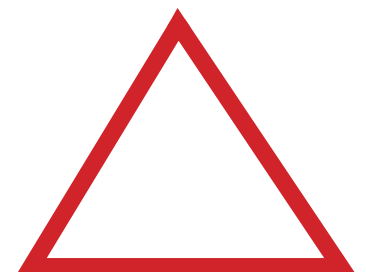
Warning - sudden drop



Danger - strong currents



Danger - deep mud
Risk of drowning



Warning - shallow water

Learning objective: To learn to recognise water safety signs.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Leisure activities

Fill in this chart, using the river activities shown in the pictures. Which take place in any weather? Which take place only in fine weather? Add any other leisure activities that take place on or beside your local river.



cycling



walking



sitting sailing

Leisure activities	
Any weather	Fine weather only



playing with a remote-controlled boat



kayaking



fishing

Learning objective: To learn about the effect of weather on people.