



RIVER STORY EDUCATION PACK



**CREATE YOUR OWN STORY ABOUT
THE JOURNEY OF A SALMON AND THE
AMAZING ANIMALS IT ENCOUNTERS
AS IT TRAVELS UP THE RIVER**

Whether you're a teacher looking for inspiring and enriching content for your students to access and use independently from home - or a parent seeking ways to make the most of time at home with your children, these activities will help you to inform and inspire young people about freshwater species found here in the UK and why these species and their habitats are at risk.

CONTENTS

Activity 1 - Research river species
Activity 2 - Create your own river story
Activity 3 - Spread the word
Curriculum links
About WWF

ACTIVITY 1

Objectives

- To find out about the animals that live in and around UK rivers

Curriculum

Science

**A WORKSHOP FOR
KEY STAGES 1 & 2**

Resources

- Access to the Internet
- [WWF Freshwater fact files](#)

Procedure

- Discuss what young people already know about animals that live in and around UK rivers.
- Ask pupils to research the animals that will appear in their story: salmon, water voles, otters and kingfishers.
- Young people can share what they have learned with you and others at home.





ACTIVITY 2

Objectives

- To find out about the salmon life cycle
- To develop an understanding of the importance of rivers as a habitat and explore the impact of human activity
- To practice composition skills and to create an exciting story about the journey of a salmon and other river-dwelling animals

Key skills

Creativity, communication and problem solving

Curriculum

English, science, geography and computing

Resources

- Film: 'The story of the salmon' with storyteller CindyLou
- Freshwater fact files
- Recourse sheet 1: Story planning sheet (included)
- Recourse sheet 2: Storyboard template (included)
- Make a recycled river puppet activity sheet

Procedure

In this creative and engaging activity young people will be inspired by the epic journey of a salmon travelling up the river and the animals it meets on the way – the playful otter, the nervous little water vole and the superfast kingfisher. They'll then create their own exciting story, using technology and art and design.

Procedure (continued)

- Watch 'The Story of the salmon' film as a starting point for story writing
- Let's continue the story... Revisit the story to make sure the young people understand the issues covered and discuss what they think happens next when the salmon comes back to the river (e.g. the river looks different and cleaner, the animals have rebuilt their homes)
- Using resource sheet 1 young people plan their river story using the story arc provided. They can refer back to their research and the freshwater fact files for information on the threats these species face. Young people are encouraged to explore their own opinions as well as what they have learned about freshwater species and why they are at risk
- Using resource sheet 2 young people can plan their story, frame by frame, using illustrations and speech bubbles
- Download the Puppet Pals app and encourage young people to create an animation to bring their story to life. Alternatively, young people can perform their story for their household or make a recording to share with their friends
- To enhance your story download our activity sheet with top tips on how to make your own recycled river puppet.





ACTIVITY 3

Objectives

- To reinforce acquired knowledge and understanding of the impact of human activity on rivers
- To think of actions we can take to help keep our rivers clean and flowing

Curriculum

Science, geography and art & design

Procedure

- Discuss with the young person what they have learned from their research and from creating their own river story. Why are UK rivers at risk? What actions can we take to help protect our rivers?
- Look up which is your nearest river. Young people can create their own poster with illustrations of animals (or signs of them) that may be found in and around the river in your local area – from the tiniest bugs to larger mammals. Try to think of a catchy message to encourage people to save water and protect your river.
- Encourage young people to set up a campaign to try to save water at home. A third of all the water we take from rivers is wasted through leaky pipes, in treatment plants or in our homes. What actions could we take to save water?



LINKS TO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

‘River Story’ aims to encourage pupils to explore the natural world, develop their understanding of sustainability issues and consider actions they can take to make a difference. The workshop also provides opportunities to help them meet core learning objectives for English, science, geography, computing and art & design.

English

- Spoken language
- Comprehension
- Composition

Science

- Animals
- Living things and their habitats

Geography

- Human and physical geography

Computing

- Effective use of technology to present information

Art & Design

ABOUT WWF

WWF is the world’s leading independent conservation organisation. With over 50 years’ experience of working across the globe, our aim is to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. Schools and home educators are vital partners in helping the next generation to connect with nature and develop the knowledge and skills to help build a more sustainable future. www.org.uk/schools



For a future where people and nature thrive | www.org.uk

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RIVER WORKSHOP

RESOURCE
SHEET 1

STORY PLANNER

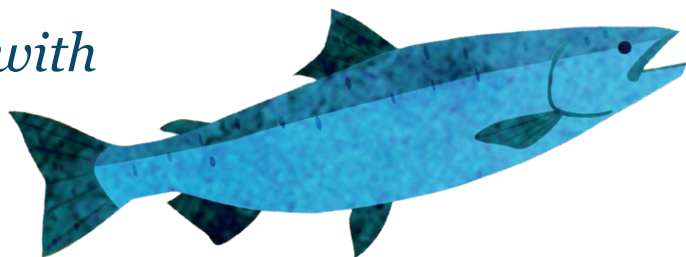
A WORKSHOP FOR
KEY STAGES 1&2

Use words or pictures or both to plan your story

Names

*“The salmon turns and heads with
a kick of its tail up the river.”*

What happens next?



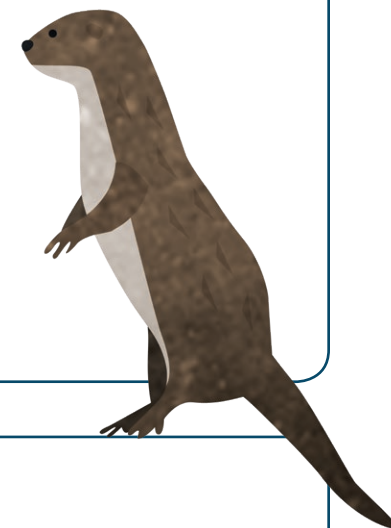
1

How does our story start?



2

What is the problem?



3

What is the solution?

Resource sheet 2:

"The salmon turns and heads with a kick of its tail up the river."



Story board frame 1

Story board frame 2

Story board frame 3

Story board frame 4

Story board frame 5

Story board frame 6