



Severn Valley Country Park

Educational Activities for Kids at Severn Valley Country Park

River Study

The study of a river system, along with its flora and fauna is both interesting and informative, and forms one of our popular educational activities for kids. The powerful effects of water erosion, and the opportunities for wildlife these create, can easily be seen along the banks of the River Severn. In addition, several smaller streams flow through the park and these can be traced from source to the Severn. The river's importance as a trade route to the sea has influenced our national development, and its support of wildlife is vital to local biodiversity.



Duration

Approximately two hours.

Equipment

Each child will need: suitable clothing and footwear.

We will provide any other equipment including writing and recording sheets, etc.

Time of year

All year round

Contact

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Activity Content

Please note that the following pages give a general description of this activity and its links to the curriculum. We reserve the right to make modifications to the content to reflect weather conditions and safety requirements.

We will be very happy to modify and amend the activity contents to enable your children or school to meet specific objectives if required.

More details of this activity are on the following page

Activity breakdown and links to National Curriculum

Activity	Curriculum
Housekeeping, hygiene, toilets, food, drink, First Aid, etc.	English: speaking and listening
Welcome children & ask if they have been to the park before, what do they know about it and the river.	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at local scale
Basic introduction for the children – talking about the river and the valley. Discuss features of the river including meanders. Usually completed outside the visitor centre	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at local scale
Activity leader explains what we will be doing and answers any questions from the children.	English: speaking and listening
Activity leader shows children a map and allows them to identify where they will be going and the changing landscape along the route. They discuss the source of the tributary that they will later be following.	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at local scale
The children then walk to Ethelfleda's well which is on a tributary to the River Severn so they can follow a tributary from source to the river itself.	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at local scale
The children follow the path of the stream to the river. On the walk the activity leader talks about basic hydrology, the wildlife and history of the river.	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at local scale Science: how science works
Discuss how the river moves through the landscape as the children walk through the meadow & woodland.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works Science: organisms and their behaviour, name and describe features of plants and animals
They demonstrate flow of the river by dropping a stick in and watching it float down the river.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works
Discuss crossing points – the bridge and the ferries.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works
At Ethelfleda's well or on the tree in Hall Close Coppice, the children dress the tree with rags in accordance with folklore.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works
The activity leader promotes a discussion of the folklore and cultural significance of rivers. How does this fit with what the children have heard before? What other folklore have they heard about and where/who did they hear it from.	English: speaking and listening
On the return walk the activity leader talks about basic geology, the wildlife and history of the park.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works Science: organisms and their behaviour, name and describe features of plants and animals
The activity leader debriefs the groups. How do they feel about their achievement, what have they learned, what would they do differently if they were to do the activity again?	English: speaking and listening
Return to Visitor Centre	