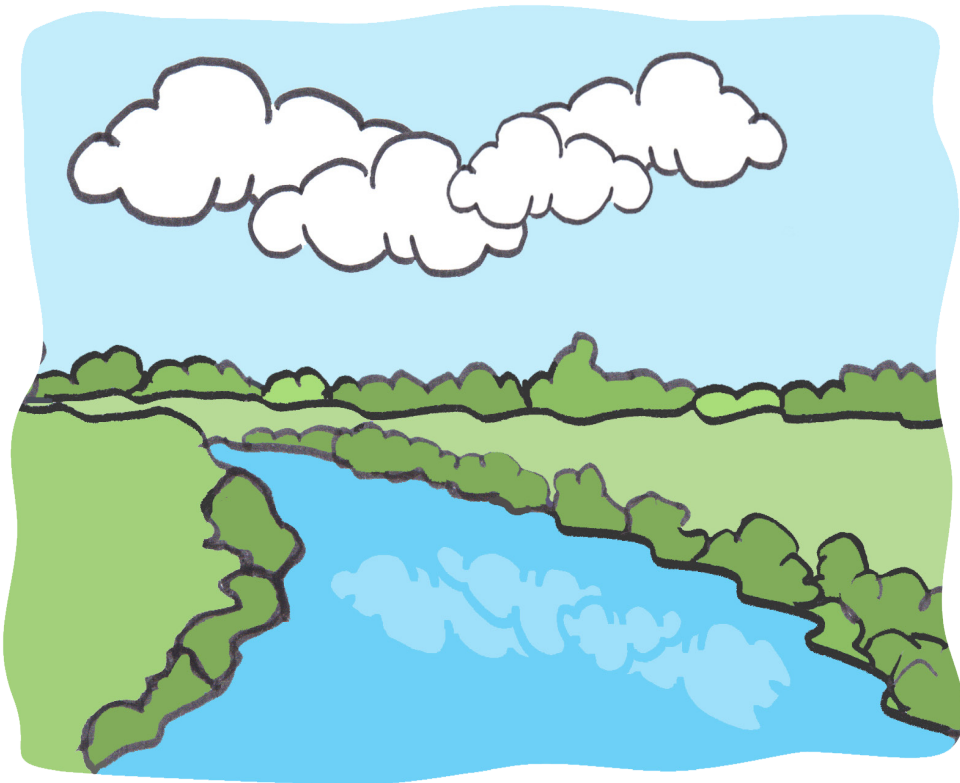


My Transforming the Trent Valley *Mini Nature Booklet*



Inside are fun ideas for playing and
learning with nature!

Supported by



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Rivers

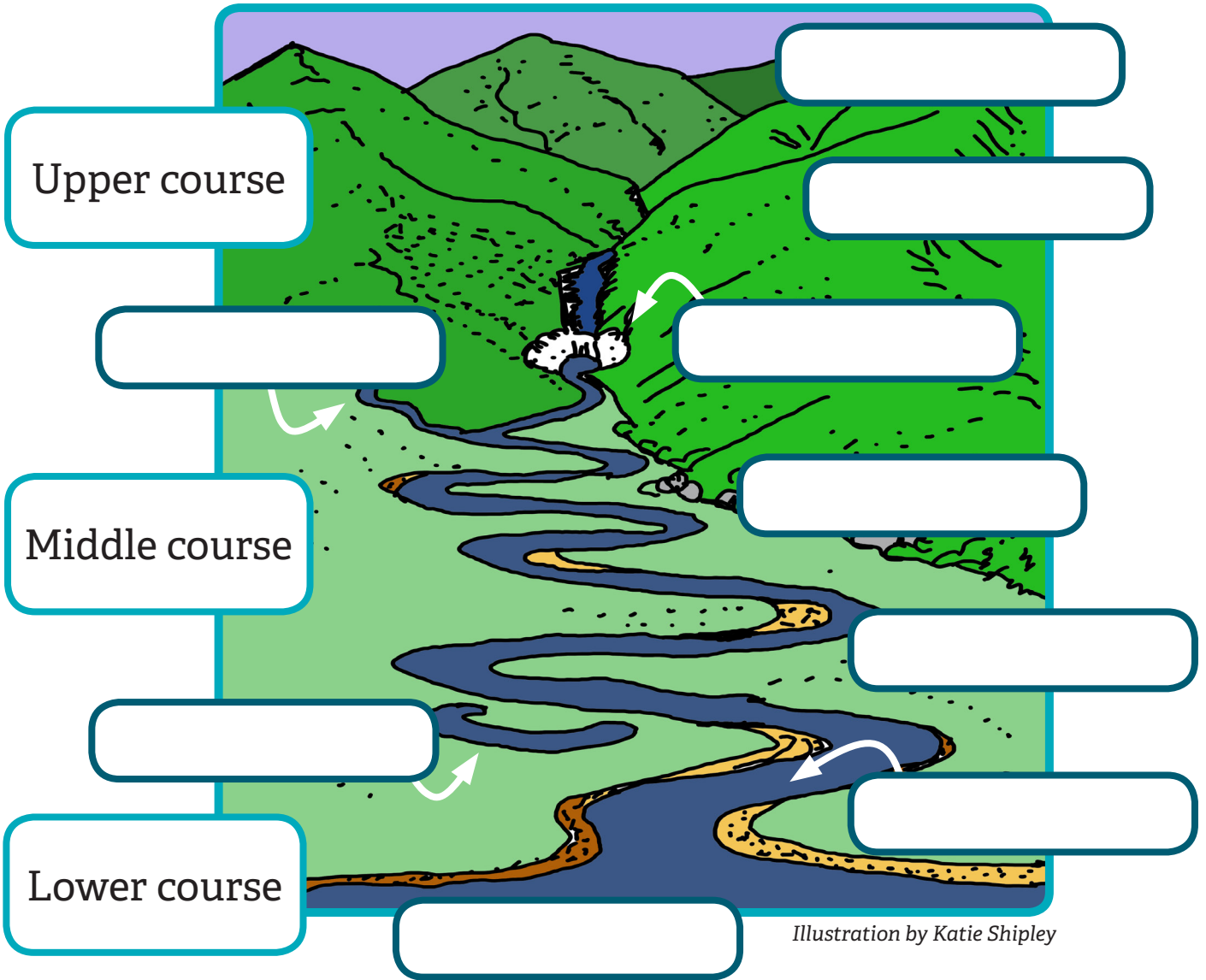


Illustration by Katie Shipley



Add these labels to the river picture above (write or stick them in).

source	v-shaped valley	meander
tributary	waterfall	floodplain,
estuary,	mouth	Ox-bow lake

Ecosystem Services:

What the river does for us

- Water supply
- A home for wildlife
- A carbon sink
- Flood protection
- Recreation and Scenery
- Fertile soil
- Food
- Minerals

When maintained well the river can provide a range of services for us.

By helping the quality and condition of our rivers, we are helping our communities thrive.

When it rains for days or we have very heavy rain, our rivers can fill up.

A river valley is prepared for flooding, it often has flat land areas next to the river to take the overflow of water. These are called **floodplains**.

They are very important in protecting our towns. But they require care and consideration.



The name 'Trent' aka the River Trent means to flood.



River Habitats:

1. *The water channel*



*The water channel is the water that travels down the river.
The speed of the water depends on how wide and steep the river is.*

In a slow moving river you can find fish. The Brown Trout is known to be found in our River Trent.

Play Pooh Sticks

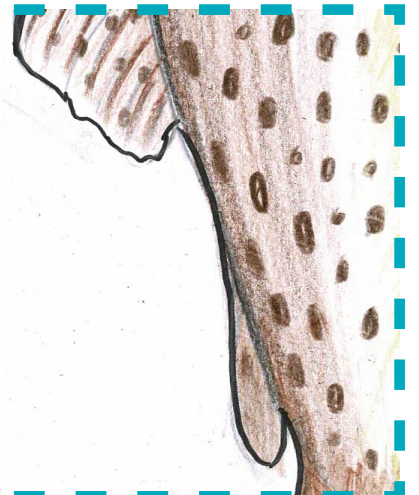
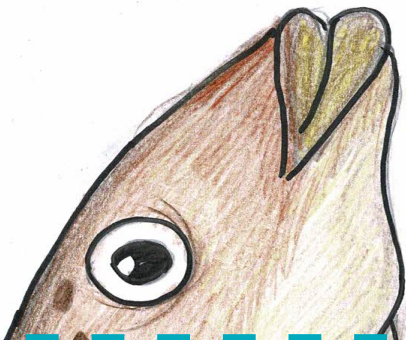
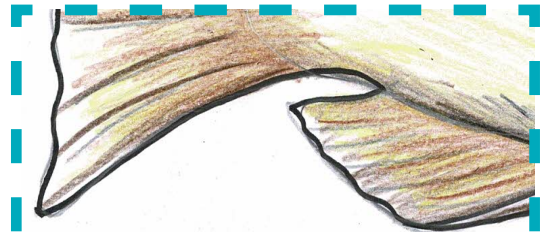
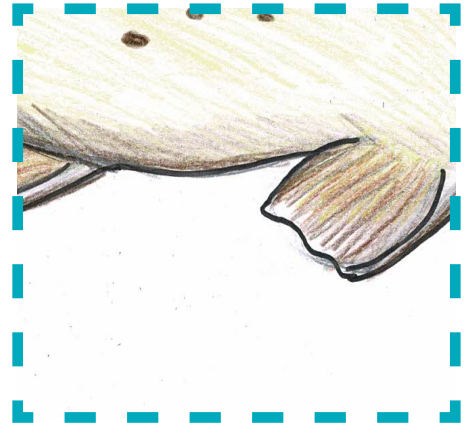
This will help you discover if a river is moving fast or slow

1. Find a stick (or many).
2. Find a safe bridge to stand on.
3. Which side does the water go under the bridge? Stand that side.
4. Throw a stick into the water
5. Safely go to the other side to see if you can see it on the otherside.
You could even time it, to see how fast its traveled under the bridge.



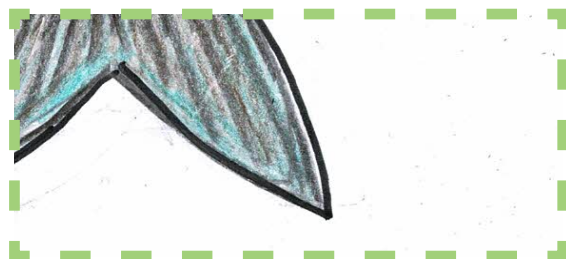
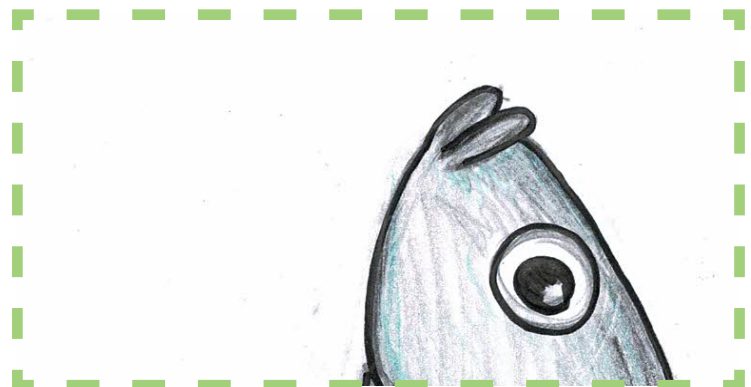
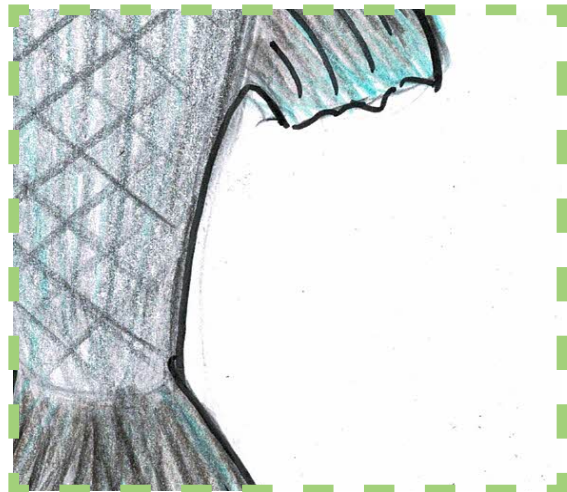
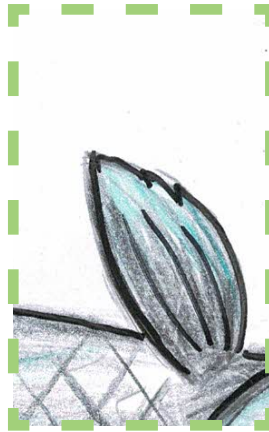
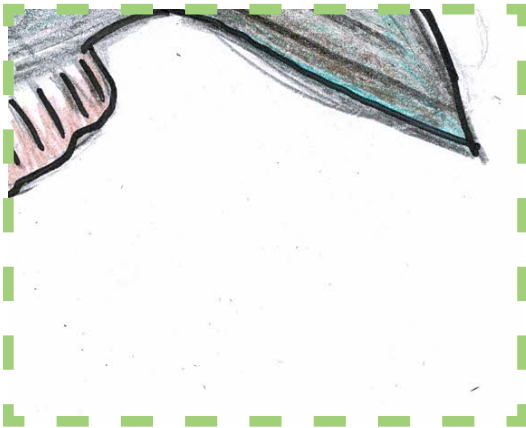


Brown Trout Jigsaw





Chub Jigsaw



River Habitats:

2. *Deposits*



As the river flows across the landscape, it moves around hard soil, rocks and tree roots. The river creates curves or ***meanders***. As the water bends round a curve it can slow down on the outside of the river. Stones, gravel and sand are slowly carried and dropped at the shallowest edges.

Over time they make ***gravel bars*** and ***riffles***.

These stone, sand and gravel patches are great homes for little creatures, who hide in the small stones. While young fish will search for food amongst the stones and sand.



River Habitats:

3. *The river bank*

Plants and trees grown on the edges of the river.

The many branches, leaves and roots are great places for creatures to sit on, hide in and shelter under.

*The plants are called **Riparian Vegetation** and are important for adult Dragonflies and Caddis flies.*

Kingfishers like to perch.

Otters like to hide.

Herons like to wade or fish.



River Dove (c) Staffordshire Wildlife Trust



Draw your favourite river bank view here.



River Wildlife



Kingfisher



Heron



Dragonfly



Swan



Bumble bee



Fish



Coot



Goose



Wildlife you might see
along the river
Cut out our spotter lists and take
them with you on your next river
walk.



River Wildlife



Butterfly



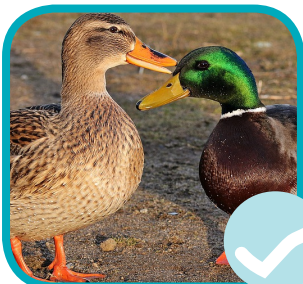
Damselfly



Otter



Robin



Mallard



Egret



Mayfly



Moor Hen



Things to think about:

Wildlife organisations like to know what you have seen as it helps them to understand how well an animal is doing in the wild.

You can report findings at
www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/wildlife/report-wildlife-sighting

OR

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

What uses a river as a corridor?

A corridor is a passageway or route. It helps someone or something travel to another location when they cannot go another way. Add a positive or negative sign in the square for each way a river is used as a corridor


Positive/
Good


Negative/
Bad



Water, stones & minerals travel down a river



Swans, geese and other waterfowl will swim or float down a river to get to another piece of land.



Seeds from trees and small plants can be carried down the river.



The invasive White Signal Crayfish can use the river as a corridor to spread diseases to our native crayfish



Bats use the river as a landmark to navigate. It is also a good place for them to grab a snack.



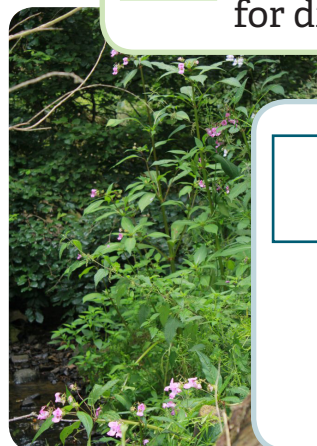
Plastic and Pollutants can be carried down the river to the sea



Humans onced used rivers for delivering trade now use them for hobbies and fun.



Salmon and eels use the river as a corridor for different life stages

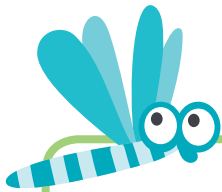


Seeds from invasive plants can be carried down the river and take over river banks

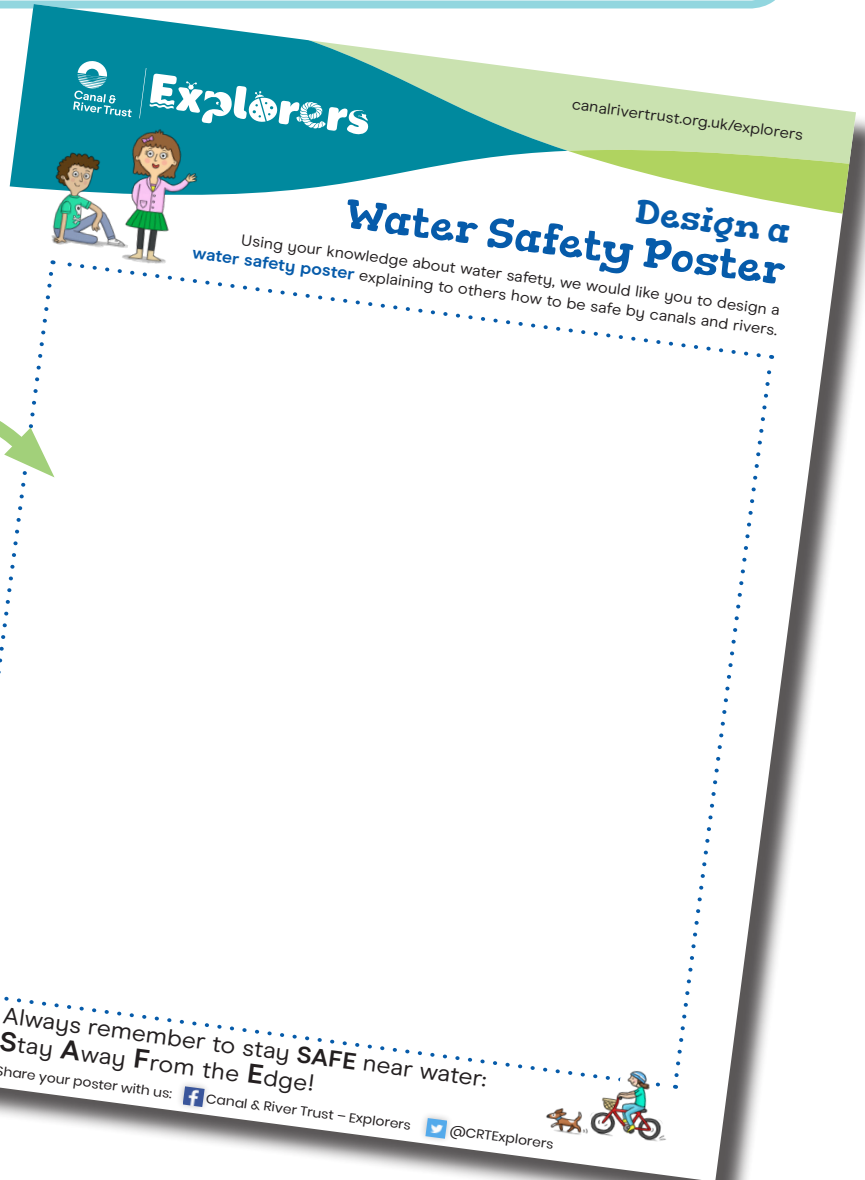
Find lots of resources and activities in the Water Safety Learning Bundle, available at canalrivertrust.org.uk/learning-bundles.



What kinds of water are near where you live?
Perhaps a canal, river, pond or lake?
Watch our film to learn more about water safety and develop your own rules for visiting safely.



You can note down your design ideas here, then print off the A4 poster template from canalrivertrust.org.uk and create your poster!



Remember to stay SAFE near water and Stay Away From the Edge!

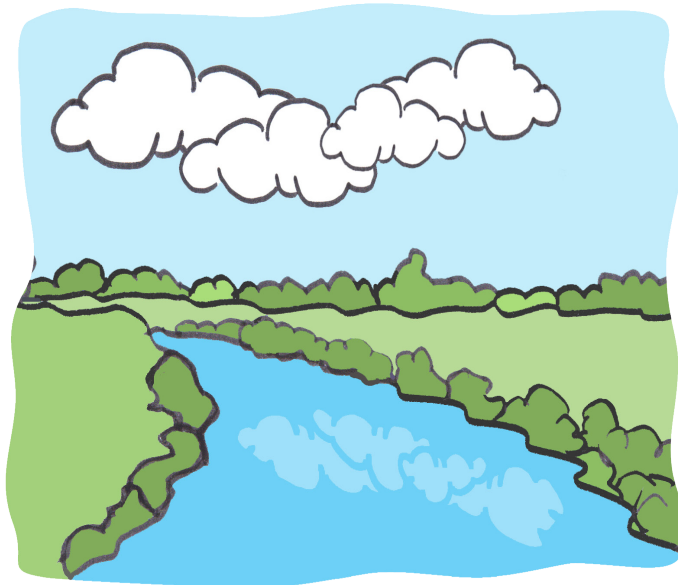


Thank you for using our Mini Nature Booklet!

We would love to hear your experiences using the booklet and see some of the creations you have made.

Please get in touch by visiting:

www.thetrentvalley.org.uk



Written by Kathryn Kavanagh

A big thanks to the Transforming the Trent Valley Team and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's People Engagement Team for the insights and inspiration to create this mini pack. Also a thank you to the Canal and River Trust for contributing to this mini school pack.

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