

Teacher Booklet

Transforming the Trent Valley Partnership Scheme

presents

Our Mini School Pack

Inside are inspirational ideas to use inside and outside the classroom or for children to try at home.

KS₂



The ideas are fun, educational with the aim to help children understand our key topic:

Role of the River

Supported by







About us

Our Landscape Partnership Scheme

Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) is a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported landscape partnership scheme. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is the lead partner of an 18 organisation partnership.

We as a scheme are...



Transforming the Landscape



River Valley Connections



Connecting Communities through Action





Our Wildchild Project

Under the branch of 'Connecting Communities through Action' is our Wildchild project. Wildchild is about learning through play – bringing children and families closer to nature and discovering their wild places through exploration and fun.

A large part of the Wildchild project is sharing our growing knowledge and understanding of the Trent Valley Landscape with the next generation. We will do this by offering free school visits to heritage sites and educational materials to help connect children to the nature on their doorstep.







Our programmes

Role of the River

We will explore the role of the river as a wildlife corridor and habitat.

Pages Sections

- 1: About us
- 2: Our programmes
- **3:** Rivers
- **4:** Ecosystem services
- **5:** The water channel
- **6-7:** Fish Jigsaws
 - 8: Deposits
 - 9: The River Bank
- 10-11: River Wildlife
 - 12: Corridors
- **13-14:** Water Safety



The children's mini nature booklet only contains these pages.

Other mini packs we offer...



Recreation & Relaxation We will discover how we can use nature as a vital resource for recreation, wellbeing and enjoyment.

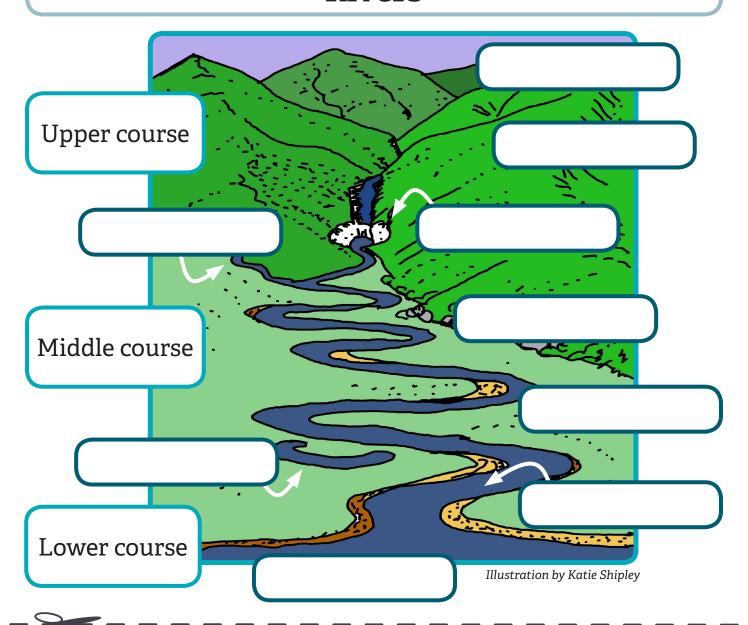


Landscape Evolution
We will consider
historical impacts that
have made the Trent
Valley what it is today.

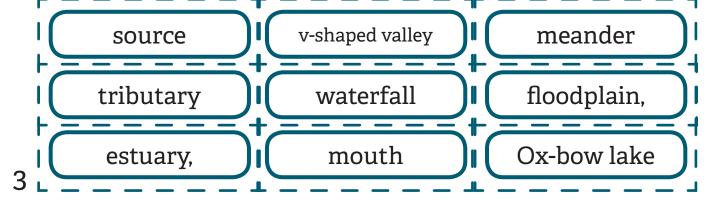


Links to Human and physical geography

Rivers



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



Links to Human and physical geography

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

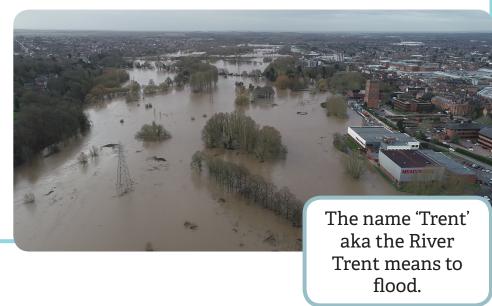
When maintained well the river can provide a range of services for us.

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.



River Habitats:

1. The water channel



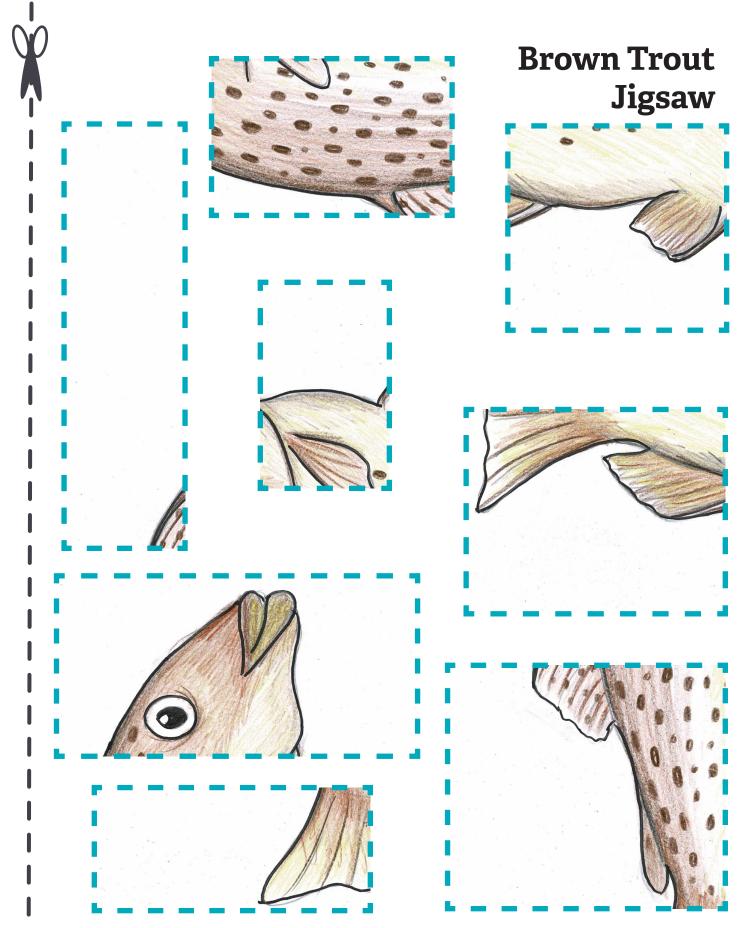
The water channel is the water that travels down the river. The speed of the water depends on how wide and steep the river is.

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

Play Pooh Sticks

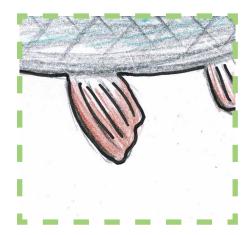
This will help you discover if a river is moving fast or slow

- 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.

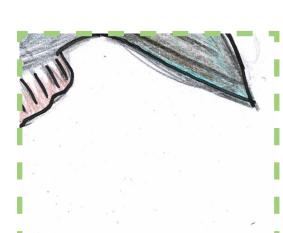


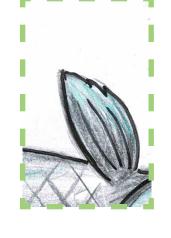
Trent Valley

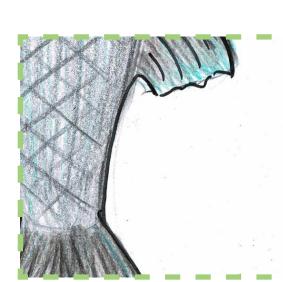
Chub Jigsaw

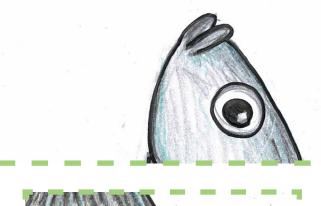














River Habitats:

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.

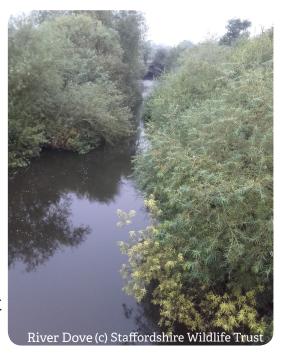
River Habitats:3. The river bank

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.







Draw your favourite river bank view here.

Role of the River

Links to Living things and their habitats



River Wildlife



Kingfisher



Dragonfly



Bumble bee



Coot



Goose



Heron



Swan



Fish



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



Trent Valley

Links to Living things and their habitats





Butterfly



Damselfly



Otter



Robin



Mallard



Egret



Mayfly



Things to think about:



Moor Hen

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

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





Negative/

Bad



Water, stones & minerals travel down a river

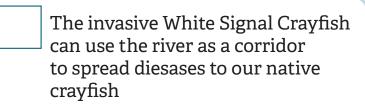
Swans, geese and other waterfowl will swim or float down a river to get to another piece of land.

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



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

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

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



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



Water Safety from Canal 6

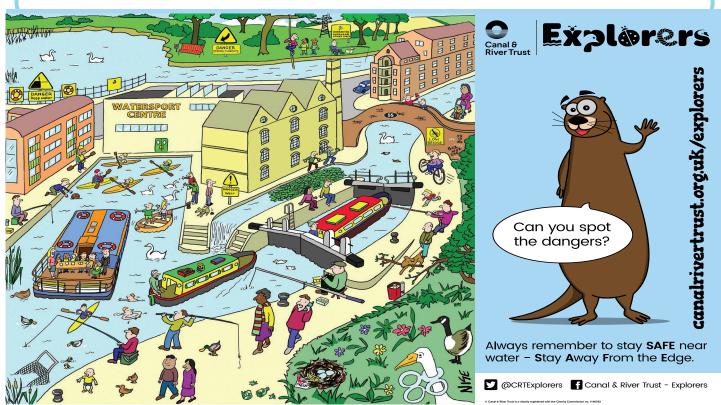




The Canal & River Trust is the charity who looks after and brings to life 2,000 miles of waterways, because we believe that life is better by water. 'Explorers' is the Trust's education programme aimed at children aged 5-11. We inspire children's learning by connecting them to our canals and rivers.

Spending time by water is great fun, but we need to learn how to be safe around water as well. Many people in this picture are putting themselves at risk by their behaviour. They are unaware of the hidden dangers.

How many hidden dangers can you spot?





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



canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

Links to Citizenship: Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle

Water Safety from





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.

water safety poster explaining to others how to be safe by canals an

<u>Exalarers</u>



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!







This mini school pack was funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Community Grants

We are encouraging community groups to plan and deliver projects within the Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme area which will benefit the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area.

To find out more visit: www. thetrentvalley.org.uk/community_ grants.php

Written by Kathryn Kavanagh

Acknowledgements

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.



Thank you for using our Role of the River school pack.

We would love to hear your thoughts and experiences using the pack. Please email tttv@staffs-wildlife.org. uk or your TTTV contact to share feedback.

Interested in finding out about...

- School visits to heritage sites
- Afterschool clubs
- School engagement
- Wildchild events in the holidays

Contact our Wildchild Officer or visit our website.

Keep up to date with us: @thetrentvalley







Contact Us:

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