



River Investigation

Learning Overview:

In this two-part session, pupils will begin their investigation with a session in school, led by a member of the learning team, to find out about the River Breamish – its route, its unique features, and its amazing wildlife. Through interactive games, pupils will also learn about the important work the National Park does in conserving our clean rivers, and why this is so important.

The second part of the investigation will take place on site at the River Breamish, where pupils will explore the river and the surrounding areas, investigate the river's characteristics, discover the animals that live beneath the surface and understand how it has shaped the landscape over the centuries.

Suitable for: KS1 and 2

Key learning objectives:

- Carry out River field investigation.
- Understand the roles rivers play in shaping the landscape and the process behind this.

Key learning outcomes:

All children will

- learn how rivers play a role in the water cycle
- Use maps to locate the river and understand key features
- Understand what is special about Northumberland National Park.
- Explain key characteristics of rivers
- Draw a field sketch and collect field data
- Match animals to keys
- Learn about human history of the valley

Most children will

- Explain how the key characteristics of rivers are formed
- Complete a field sketch with appropriate annotations
- Calculate the mean flow of the river
- Use keys to identify animals
- Describe how animals have similarities and differences



Some children will

- Understand how rivers form part of the landscape and can shape its appearance over time and predict future changes
- Will learn how animals can be used as indicators of healthy rivers
- Describe how animals have adapted to living in different parts of the stream.

Curriculum Links:

Geography- Physical geography, Rivers and Water Cycle, Geographical skills and fieldwork

Science- living things and their habitats, animals, Evolution, Working scientifically

History- Hill forts, local history of the valley

Activities on the day:

In school:

- Explore maps of the River Breamish and its route
- Learn about the key features of the river
- Understand the water cycle
- Find out about the wildlife that lives in the valley
- Understand how and why the National Park conserves rivers

On site:

Activities may vary depending on the weather, group size, arrival/departure times.

- In small groups, pupils will use equipment to measure the river's depth and speed and calculate averages.
- In small groups, pupils will use equipment to investigate the creatures that live in the river, and use keys to identify them.
- Walk to the hillfort, Brough Law, to view the river valley and explore the way the river has changed/affected the landscape over time