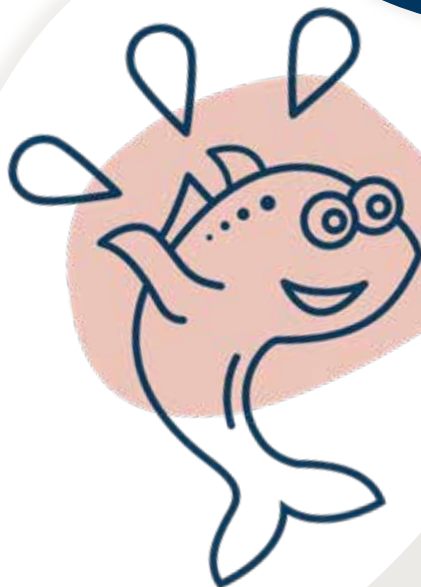


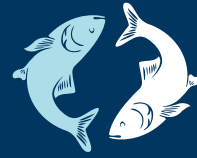
UNLOCKING THE SEVERN

Activity Pack

River Friendly Farming

**FOR
KIDS!**





Background information:

Farms are great places for wildlife to live, with lots of trees and quiet places away from towns. However, there are things on a farm which can easily damage the river if we aren't careful, like slurry, mud, chemicals or fuel from tractors. How we look after a farm can help to keep the river water clean. We call this 'River Friendly Farming'.

What you will need:

All you need for these activities is a pencil and paper. There are opportunities for extra creativity, but they are optional.

Activity!

First of all, let's see what you already know about farms...



What is the aim of farms?

What kinds of crops and animals might you see on a farm?

What kind of machinery might you see on a farm?

What might a farmer use water for?





Activity!

To help you think about River Friendly Farming, look at the picture of the farm below and identify things that are happening which are good for the river, and things which are bad for the river. Once you have notes some of your ideas, look at the next page to find the answers!

Good for the river:

Bad for the river:



Answers:

The red and green circles highlight the good and bad things taking place on the farm. You will find more information about these on the next page.



Activity!

Compare your own list with that on the following page. What did you spot?!





Answers:

Good for the River

Clean water Clean water is very important to maintaining the health of a river and helping all those plants and wildlife that depend on it!

Fish You can find many different species of fish in UK rivers. Those common to the river include chub, barbel and minnow; but there are also those less common such as salmon, eel and shad! How many fish can you count in our picture?

Birds These are an important part of the river ecosystem and species found around UK rivers include herons, kingfishers and dippers. How many birds can you count in our picture?

People visiting the river responsibly Rivers are great places to visit for a walk or picnic, but it is important to take any litter away with you at the end of your trip.

Trees and bankside vegetation Lots of wildlife depend on trees for food and shelter, but they are also important as they help reduce flooding! If the vegetation is close to the riverbank, their roots help to stabilise the bankside by holding the soil together.

Bad for the River

Spraying crops Fertilisers and pesticides can runoff fields and enter the rivers, causing disruption to the natural ecosystems.

Throwing waste into river Even household waste can be bad for rivers because of the chemicals found in common cleaning products.

Litter Rubbish is very dangerous for wildlife in and around the river, and some plastics won't degrade for hundreds of years!

Mis-connections Some pipes in older buildings send waste from the toilet straight into the river instead of to the sewers.

Broken fence and cattle in the river Animals wear away the riverbank with their feet and they also add their own waste to the water when they go to the toilet.

Fuel leaking from car Machinery such as cars and tractors sometimes have leaks and those chemicals end up in the river. Sometimes they infiltrate (sink into) the soil and get washed into the river without being seen!

Activity!

As an extra challenge can you spot the following additional features in the farm picture?

Welly boots?

Church?

How many different types of birds?

How many different types of plants and trees?



Activity!

How can the farmers address these issues and reduce their farms' impact on the river? Think of three suggestions:

-
-
-



Finish this sentence:

It is important for farmers to look after the river because...

Activity!

Now you have an idea of what makes a River Friendly Farm, it's time to design your own! You can draw or paint your farm, or if you are feeling extra creative why not build it out of things you have in your home? Find a blue cloth or towel for your river and go from there!

Keep in mind the following tips that help river friendly farming:



The aim of the farm is to provide food for people

Planting trees will help protect the riverbanks and reduce flood risk

Insect hotels help create homes for insects that pollinate crops and help maintain the health of the surrounding ecosystem

Collecting rainwater helps provide a source of fresh water which has lots of uses on the farm



Activity! Take it further..

Lots of farmers are using high tech machinery and technology to make help them produce more food for people and look after water and wildlife.

Can you come up with a brand new invention for farming? Draw a picture or make a model and add it to your Water Friendly Farm.



Complete the other exciting activity packs found on the Unlocking the Severn website by visiting <https://www.unlockingthesevern.co.uk/>