



### TEACHER & PARENT NOTES

#### You will need:

An open floor space works best (e.g. lounge or garden), access to the internet to conduct research, pencil and paper to make notes, blue fabric (this could be towels, sheets, old curtains, a blanket etc) to create the river itself, other materials to create features along the river. Be creative in your search for materials around your house and garden (e.g. plastic containers, cardboard boxes, construction toys such as Lego, wool, string, rope, foil containers, buttons, moveable furniture such as chairs/stools, natural materials such as fir cones, pebbles or shells). You can even make your own props using old cereal boxes!

#### Discussion ideas to support learning throughout activities:

Begin by discussing what knowledge they already have of the River Severn or any other rivers locally or further afield. Develop questions further by asking what they think the landscape around those rivers looks like, what or who lives there, why is it important and who is it important to? Consider its purpose as a habitat and home but also its previous importance in trade etc.

During the activities encourage learners to be creative and not to strive for perfection in their designs. Support them in problem solving and experiment with different materials for different

#### Extension activities for further research (including suggested links if applicable):

Link to your own river. Find a map of its course. Break into 3 or 4 sections. Choose key locations within each section. Research and make notes about landscape, wildlife, history, any interesting stories, any historic figures associated with those locations? Then build your river! How is it similar and different to the Severn? Look for a river in a different country with a different climate. How about the River Nile in Egypt or the Amazon in South America?

Create your own imaginary river with its own environment, history, animals etc! This could be complete fantasy, or even a river from another planet! How is it similar or different to our more familiar rivers?

These activities are suitable for Key Stage: 1 and 2

#### Learning outcomes:

Describe the characteristics of the 4 main sections of the River Severn and identify their locations on a map.

Practice independent research skills and careful observations to build a detailed picture of each section of the river.

Explore and develop own creativity and problem-solving skills to recreate those characteristics using materials sourced within their home.

Develop presentation skills through teaching others about their river.

#### Curriculum Links:

**Geography:** physical and human geography including rivers and surrounding environment.

**History:** local history to the river and its impacts on present day landscape.

**Art:** using a wide range of materials creatively, make observations and apply this to own designs.

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