

Learning from Home: Canal and River Habitats

KS2 children aged 7-11 years (can be adapted for KS1 children aged 5-7 years)

Learning Objectives	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover the living things that thrive in canal and river environments. Explore their habitats and the features that help creatures adapt to them. Understand life cycles, food webs and the classification of living things. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canal and River Habitats Topic Pack Habitats Activity Sheets Dragonfly Life Cycle Video Food Chain Online Games Peg Butterfly
Success Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to name and describe various waterway habitats and the creatures that live within them. Children will be able to explain a food chain or food web, using examples from a waterway environment. Children will develop their understanding of how living things are adapted to succeed in a particular habitat. 	
Teaching/Parent Input	
<p>Start by finding out what the children know – discuss rivers and canals. What lives there? What different places are there for a living creature to live? How would it be different living in the grass compared to the treetops? Or the water's edge compared to the deep water? Introduce the words food chain or food web – children will have come across them at school, what do they know? Explore the activities and resources based on your discussions.</p>	
Activities	
<p>Read: The Canal and River Habitats Topic Pack explores our waterways and all that lives on, in and near them! Do: Choose activities that interest you from the Habitats Activity Sheets. Watch: The Secret Life of a Dragonfly video. What can you recall? Play: The games slider has several games about habitats and living things – have fun and test your knowledge! Create: A butterfly with beautiful patterned wings.</p>	
Suggestions	
<p>You could turn the facts you discover into a quiz to send to a friend or teach a family member all about a life cycle. Books and websites have lots of examples of food webs, what other waterway examples can you discover?</p>	
Plenary	Key Words
<p>Clarify the meaning of the key words that have come up. Think about the wildlife habitats around your own home.</p>	<p>Key Stage 1: Life Cycle, Food Chain, Habitat, Canal, River, Shallow, Deep, Edge Key Stage 2: Food Web, Adaptation, Biodiversity, Environment, Classification</p>
Useful websites/external resources	Get Outside Ideas
<p>Further exploration of the science topics covered: http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/science/science.htm Ideas to improve your outdoor space at home to encourage wildlife: https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activity-sheets</p>	<p>Explore an outside space from the viewpoint of different animals or plants – where would be the best place to live? Why? What about you means that you can survive there?</p>