

# Practical activity ideas

## Lesson 2 – What are rivers, and how are they formed?

### River in tray

**Resources:** Large tray or tuff spot, sand, soil, water, jug or watering can, small pebbles or gravel, towels or cleaning cloths, plastic sheeting or newspaper.

**River in a tray:** Use sand, soil and water in a large tray to simulate river formation, showing natural processes such as erosion. Pupils manipulate the flow and observe changes. Add small stones/twigs to see how rivers transport materials.

---

### River course modelling

**Resources:** Playdough or papier-mâché materials (flour, water, newspaper, glue), baseboards or trays, sticky notes or small flags, pens or pencils, river features photos.

**River course modelling:** Pupils create 3D river courses (upper, middle, lower) using playdough or papier-mâché and label features with flags or sticky notes. Additional vocabulary can be added to these as children progress through the unit.

---

### Drama activity

**Resources:** Open classroom or hall space, large, printed cue cards, blue fabric or ribbons, costumes or props

**Drama activity:** Pupils act out the journey of a water droplet from source to estuary, embodying features within the upper course, middle course and lower course.

---

### River mapping

**Resources:** Maps/atlases of the UK.

**Map the river journey:** Use a map or atlas to trace a real river from its source to its mouth.

---

### River fieldwork

**Resources:** Paper, pencils, clipboards.

**River fieldwork (if possible):** Visit a local river and observe and sketch its features.

---

