

River Detectives



Investigating healthy rivers in a working landscape

Key Learning Objectives:

How humans impact on the environment (water pollution and flooding); river features and vocabulary; river habitats; learning something new about your area.

Introduction:

The River Detectives know a lot about rivers. They have spent time exploring and investigating the rivers and farms in their local area.

When you watch the film you'll probably hear some words that are new to you, so we have put together a glossary, which explains what these 'hard' words mean, to help you understand what the Detectives are talking about. You can find that [HERE](#).

The River Detectives investigate and introduce us to a few important things about rivers and what they need to be healthy. They tell us about these things a few times in the film, in a few different ways, to help us learn and understand.

Watch the film, if you haven't already, and then fill in the blanks to show evidence what a top detective you have become.

If you need some further clues to help you in your quest to become a River Detective, take a look through these words (they are not in the right order though!):

habitat fast-flowing pollution slow the flow soil buffer strip oxygen plants cows flooding slow-flowing meanders fence straightened

Fill in the blanks:

1. Putting up a sturdy _____ near the river, helps to create a _____, which protects the river from things that aren't very good for it, like _____ and sheep who damage the riverbank, eating the _____ and trampling _____ into the water.
2. Buffer Strips also help reduce the amount of farmland _____ from fertilisers and pesticides from reaching the river.
3. River creatures need plenty of _____ in the water so that they can breathe and survive.
4. Where rivers have been _____ in the past, they are usually all the same depth and speed and there is less _____ for the different river creatures to live.
5. Healthy rivers have natural _____ and a mix of shallow _____ - _____ and deep _____ - _____ areas of water, where plants can grow and a variety of river creatures can live.
6. Healthy river systems help to _____ of water, which can help reduce _____ further downstream.

River Detectives word search

There are 15 words about healthy / unhealthy rivers hidden below. Tick off each word as you find them, using your new River Detective knowledge, to say if the word is something good or bad for the health of rivers.



Word good bad

BOULDERS
BUFFERSTRIP
FENCE
FISH
HABITATS
HEALTHY
INVERTEBRATE
MEANDER

Word good bad

OXYGEN
PESTICIDES
SLURRY
STRAIGHTENED
TREES
VARIETY
WILDLIFE

Top tips ...

... for being a successful word search sleuth (detective)

1. Work your way through the each of words in the table, searching for the first letter of just one word at a time.
2. The words are hidden within the table at all angles—they are written forwards, backwards and at diagonals in all directions.
3. Because of this, when searching for a word, when you find a first letter that matches, be sure to look at all the letters that surround it to see if there is a match for the second letter, as you don't know which direction your word could be written in!
4. Circle the whole word when you find it. If you put a line through the letters you will not be able to see them clearly when searching for other words.
5. Remember to tick of the ones you have found—in the 'good or bad' column in the table.

Find out more about rivers at

www.edenriverstrust.org.uk

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