

# YOUR RIVER JOURNEY

## SUPPORT MATERIALS

INSIDE

This workshop is the introductory workshop to our Taith Afon workshop series. Its here to help frame and give context to the upcoming workshops.

### OVERVIEW

Where does our water come from? In this introductory workshop we will discover what our rivers provide for us, and why its so important to protect them.

**Subjects: Science, Geography**

**Age Range: 7-11 years**

**Location: Riverside**

**Time required: 30 minutes**

### KIT LIST

Cups or glasses of water. Alternatively, ensure the learners have their bottled water with them.

### PREP

Before the workshop, place a glass or cup of water before each learners workspace. Alternatively you can instruct learners to place their water bottles in front of them.

1

### SLIDES - Welcome to your river journey!

This section takes you through all five of the workshops available through Taith Afon in the order recommended, to allow you to outline to the learners how rivers are going to be incorporated in their upcoming learning.

**Slide 1:** Your River Journey

**Slide 2:** Workshop 1: Todays workshop

**Slide 3:** Workshop 2: River Ecosystems, what lives in our rivers.

**Slide 4:** Workshop 3: River Catchments, what a river catchment is and how everything in it affects the river.

**Slide 5:** Workshop 4: River Health, negative impacts on our rivers.

**Slide 6:** Workshop 5: River Monitoring, how we can use invertebrates to measure the health of our river.

## 2

**SLIDES - Where does our water come from?**

**Setting the scene:** This section is designed to get the learners to start thinking of their own conclusions as to where we get our water from, and how they have ended up with clean drinking water in front of them.

**Slide 1 - Where does our water come from?**

How did we end up with clean drinking water in front of us?

Not just because you put it there no... But where does it come from?

**Slide 2 - The Water Cycle**

We know about the water cycle, how it rains and both ground and surface water flows to our rivers and seas before being evaporated,

**Slide 3 & 4 - But how does it end up in your glass?**

Reservoirs have been created to capture water from inflowing rivers and ground water. Water treatment works extract the water from these reservoirs, clean it to make it safe for drinking and then feed it into our homes.

Where does the water go when you pour it down the sink?

Our drains from our sinks, washing machines and toilets head back to the water treatment works to be cleaned and then get released back into our rivers and seas.

**Slide 5- 14 -What else do rivers provide us?**

**Recreation:** Rivers provide us with so much more as well as our drinking water. They provide us with spots of nature to enjoy recreational activities like walking, kayaking and wild swimming. We get both physical and mental health benefits from spending time in or around our rivers.

How does spending time by a river make you feel?

**Transportation:** We use rivers to transport large cargo ships of materials from the sea to our city docks via rivers. Historically, rivers were used even more so for transport, as important routes for both trade and travel.

**Food:** Our rivers support the life-cycles of salmon and trout, some of the main sources of fish we consume. Rivers also play a role in irrigation, the watering of our agriculture crops.

**Hydroelectric power:** The power of the rivers flow can be turned into energy through water wheels and dams helping to generate electricity to our homes.

**Flood Control:** Rivers act as a natural drainage systems, carrying water during periods of heavy rainfall. This natural drainage prevents flooding by transporting excess water away from higher elevations.



2

## SLIDES - What rivers do for us

**Slide 15** - Rivers provide us with so much, human life relies and revolves around them.

What happens to our drinking water if all the rivers dried up?

Perhaps the learners have heard of a hose-pipe ban. But, when we are low on river water during droughts we are restricted on water usage in our homes.

Where would all the rain water go if we didn't have these natural drainage systems?

Without river diverting and taking the rain water away, we would have a lot more wet land, and less places to build. Or, our homes and streets would get flooded far more frequently.

**Slide 15** -Therefore, its important that we do our best to protect our rivers. During the upcoming workshops, you'll learn how to do just that!

3

## Conclusion

The key takeaways from this workshop

- Learners will understand where our water comes from
- Leaners understand what benefits rivers provide humans
- Leaners understand issues that arise when rivers are not healthy



Thank you for completing the introductory workshop. The next workshop of the series is 'River Ecosystems'.