

# How do rivers flow?

Scout and Vinnie throw sticks into the river; they watch as the river carries them downstream. What will they observe?

## Key Question

### Key Stage 1:

How fast or slow does a river flow?

### Key Stage 2:

How does water flow in a river?



## Activity

### Make a Water Wall

1. Create a watercourse onto the base structure which allows water to flow from one section to the next and into a bucket at the bottom
2. Attach the tubes/ pipes to the base structure using string/ pipe cleaners
3. Students will pour water down their water course
4. Groups could race each other to see whose bucket fills the quickest.

### Equipment:



- Base structure: fence, wall, trellis
- Water course: tubes/old hose pipe/guttering
- Attachments: string/pipe cleaners/ cable ties
- Scissors
- Containers: jugs/ buckets/bottles
- Water



### Top Tips:

- Use bottle necks as funnels, make holes in containers etc.
- Use old hose pipe/ guttering to direct water between sections
- Reuse your water.



# How do rivers flow?



## Key Points:

- Water flows in rivers at different speeds
- Water changes speed as it flows down the river.
- Humans can influence river flow.



## Apply to different learners:

1. **More support:** Demonstrate how water travels faster or slower depending on the slope angle or the volume of water.
2. **Challenge:** Students could make changes to their water course and discuss the impacts of this e.g., adding barriers. They could also change how much water they pour down to reflect different scenarios such as high rainfall events.



## More questions to ask:

1. Why might it be better to “slow the flow” of water into a river?
2. How do humans affect the flow of rivers?
3. Can you think of any examples of this near to you?
4. How could we solve the issues of flow into rivers?

## Other activities you could try:

1. Build a “leaky dam”
2. Map the drainage in your school
3. Create a “river” using pipes etc. and measure the speed of a float or handmade mini boat

## Further Resources:

For more activities, worksheets and resources, visit [theriverstrust.org](http://theriverstrust.org) by scanning Scout's QR code!

With thanks to:



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