

Why do rivers make good habitats?



Scout explores river habitats. What are habitats and why are rivers good habitats for some animals?



Key Question

Key Stage 1:

What does an animal need in its home?

Key Stage 2:

What features of a river make it a good habitat for animals?



Activity

Land on the safe habitat

1. Students gather in the centre of the room and close their eyes
2. Ask them to pretend they are water voles living by a river
3. Place 4 cards around the rooms face down.
4. Ask students to open their eyes and each pick a card to stand by.
5. Reveal what each card shows. Students stood by a bad habitat card (litter or pollution) are out.
6. Keep repeating this, mixing up the cards each time.
7. Keep going until you have a winner.

Equipment:



- 5 image card printouts – litter, pollution leak, riverside burrow, waterside vegetation and optional predator card
- Optional print out of a water vole for explanations
- Large space for moving around



Top Tips:

- Make it fun with students acting like water voles.
- Add the predator card after a few rounds
- Do this activity outside to get your students out in nature.



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Key points:

- Habitats are homes for living things
- Rivers provide water, food, safety and connections to other places



More questions to ask:

1. What is a habitat?
2. Why do rivers make good habitats?
3. How can we look after rivers so that animals have a safe place to live?
4. What are some other habitats? What features do they have?

Further Resources:

For more activities, worksheets and lessons, visit theriverstrust.org by scanning Scouts QR code!

With thanks to:



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Apply to different learners:

1. More support:

- Explain why each of the cards is good or bad for the water vole.
- If you introduce a predator, explain what food chains are and the differences between predator and prey animals

2. Challenge:

Why is it important for water voles to have burrows (homes) that are safe from predators such as foxes and otters?

Other activities you could try:

1. Minibeast hunts
2. Transects
3. Plots and transects
4. Kick sampling in your local river



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Litter



Fresh vegetation



Riverside burrow



Pollution/sewage leak



Predator

