



LESSON 2: WHY WE LIVE AROUND RIVERS

Aim

- To understand why we live around rivers.

Lesson Objectives

- To understand why people live around rivers and have settled next to rivers in the past.
- To learn the various reasons why humans use rivers.

Assumed Prior Knowledge

- The water cycle.
- A brief description of what a river is.

Resources

- Video – Creating steam to power machinery.

Assessment

- Homework exercise – The pupils will choose any two of the homework tasks on offer. These are a mixture of online based searches and a drawing/recap exercise from what has been covered in class.

Lesson Outcomes

- To understand that people settled around rivers to fulfil the basic needs of drinking and using the river for food.
- To understand that over time rivers became important to communities for other reasons.

Differentiation

- Class discussion.

Skills for Life

- Communication.
- Listening.

Curriculum Links

- Geography.
- Communication literacy.
- Science/Technology.
- History.



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The homework sheet for this lesson can also be found at the end of this document. The answers for the homework sheet will be determined by the teacher based on which options the pupils choose.

Key words within the PowerPoint lesson are highlighted in orange and the definitions of these words can be found in the glossary, which is available to download off the homepage.



LESSON 2: WHY WE LIVE AROUND RIVERS

This lesson is mainly led by the teacher and involves the pupils listening and making notes when instructed by the teacher, as opposed to lots of class exercises.

Slide 1

- Slide containing the lesson aims and objectives.

Slide 2 – Why We Live Around Rivers

- This introductory slide is for class discussion. The teacher will put the question to the class to discuss their answers.
- The pupils should spend up to five minutes writing down their thoughts individually and then there should be a class discussion in which pupils feedback their thoughts to the whole class.

Slide 3 – Why We Live Around Rivers

- Teacher to run through the slide with the class - additional text will pop up on the slide as the teacher runs through it.
- Water from rivers was used for drinking and could be used to cook food. People could also wash in the water or take water from the river to use elsewhere and wash things.
 - Did any of the class get any of these reasons?
- Mention that in some areas of the world, this is still the case with some communities located near to rivers.

Slide 4 – Agriculture and farming

- Teacher to run through the slide.
- As time went by villages started to appear close to rivers and people began to find lots of other uses for them.
- The land around rivers was good to grow crops and raise/farm animals.

Slide 5 – Transport

- People, goods, animals, food could be transported in boats along the river in times when there were no proper roads.

Slide 6 – Defending against attack

- Castles could be built next to rivers or surrounded by deep ditches filled with water, or 'moats', from a nearby river to protect against invading armies.
- The water could be used to help protect communities from invasions from the other side of the river.



LESSON 2: WHY DO WE LIVE AROUND RIVERS?

Slide 7 – Power

- New technologies at the time used the force of the water in rivers to push water wheels to turn cogs and gears in machinery and make the production of goods, such as the grinding of flour easier.

Slide 8 – Industry

- There is a video on the slide (left) box which can be shown to the class.
- About 250 years ago (late 1700's) the Industrial Revolution started. This was a time when machines started to be used which could speed up the time it took to make things or carry out tasks.

Steam engines

- 1850's onwards large mills and factories needed power. Coal was used to heat up water and this created steam which was used to run the machines.
- The factories which produced the steel needed lots of heat to melt and shape the metal but they also needed lots of water from rivers to cool it down too.
- People used to live near the factories where they worked as there were no cars or buses, this meant that people moved near the rivers too.

Slide 9 – Rivers provide suitable locations for nuclear power stations.

- Nuclear power stations heat water to spin large turbines which generate electricity.

Steam 10 – Coal fired power stations

- These power stations generate electricity by burning coal to heat water and create steam to spin turbines.

Slide 11 – Hydro electricity

- These power stations block off the river with a dam creating a lake behind them. Gates in the dam can open allowing large amounts of water through to push the turbines round and generate electricity.
- If some pupils are unaware of what a dam is, there is a definition in the glossary.

Slides 12 and 13 – An attractive place to live and visit

There are now many other reasons people choose to live near rivers and water:

- People like to live near water so homes next to/near rivers become more desirable because of their location.
- Houseboats - Living on boats has become a more affordable way to live for many people in expensive parts of the country like London.
- People take part in water sports or have hobbies like fishing or boating, this means businesses are needed near rivers.



LESSON 2: WHY DO WE LIVE AROUND RIVERS?

Slide 14 – Homework

- The pupils homework can be chosen by them.
- They should choose two of the five tasks which are outlined on the slide and worksheet.



HOMEWORK: CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING TASKS

Do some fact finding on the Hoover Dam

- What is it?
- Where is it?
- Which river is it built on?
- Why was it built?



Create a poster



Thinking about what you discussed in class, draw a scene from a river which shows the different uses.

English rivers A - Z



Working through the alphabet can you name 1 river that begins with each letter?

Be a detective!



Can you name the river which is closest to where you live?

Use Google Earth to follow the river from where it begins to where it ends. Can you name all the towns it passes through?

Does it join another river or flow all the way to the sea?

Research a river anywhere in the world



- What is its name?
- How long it is?
- Is it famous for anything?
- What is it used for?