

Obligatory Secondary Education

Everything that has a name exists

Resources: Internet, town map, data sheets, camera

- Aims:**
- To understand the reason behind river names through the place's culture
 - To identify and discover the meaning and origin of place names

- Skills covered:**
- Processing the information and use of digital technology
 - Linguistic communication
 - Social and citizen-related

Place names: This is the list of different names that appear on a map or in cartography. Toponymy is the name given to the study of these names.

Let's suppose that the Town Council's Basque Service has awarded your group a grant to study the place names of sources and rivers in your town. In order to develop the study you must collect, analyse and explain in a descriptive text the characteristics of the names of the rivers and of the elements found along its course (places, species, cultural heritage, infrastructures, etc.)

Activity

After analysing the place names, it is important that the dossier does not get left in a box at the Town Council (which is often the case, unfortunately). To prevent this and extend our work, we can carry out the following actions:

- Each team can classify the place names of the rivers and sources identified in their work and place them before the whole class on a general map.
- To draw up among everyone a summary sheet for each source or river so it can be placed on the map. Add photos to it if possible.
- Finally, the 'txoko berde' can be put up in a visible place in the centre.

Example:

Located between the districts of Erandio, Valle del Txorierrri and Uribe Costa, besides being a very broad and rich group of farmhouses, Erandio is bathed by the **River Asua and the Bilbao Estuary**. Although the River Asua is less important nowadays, in the past it provided Erandio with great wealth. Thanks to Asua Port, Erandio provided sea communication links to the Valle del Txorierrri. The River had a greater flow and the tides were more apparent than they are now. In the surrounding area there were numerous river valleys and ports of great importance due to the coming and going of large ships. The most important port was **Erandio** which still contains a large commercial surface. Other noteworthy place names are **Olpe, Errotazarreta, Sakoni, Plaibarriondo, Pasajebarria and Gastañeta**, all of which are ports and

valleys bathed by the River Asua. But as the river lost importance, some place names also disappeared. In the other neighbourhoods there are also important rivers such as **Giltza or the Giltza stream**, which divides Loiu and Erandio. It is named after the instrument that ensured the water never stopped in the old mills, that is, the key (giltza in Basque). Thanks to the key the water was poured in and the mill would operate. There are many rivers with the same name in Bizkaia although there also others: **Potxin, Urgitxi, Ibarra, Zubieta (Lertutza), Izardui, Bolua** (separates Loiu and Erandio in the Martiartu neighbourhood), **Kareagaerreka (Arrigunaga), Urederra, Askaiturri** and **Ugartebaso**. (Source: Toponimia de Erandio)

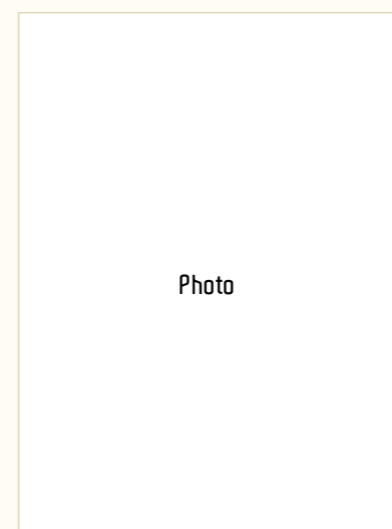
Follow these steps:

- Analyse your town's cartography.
- Search for information on the Internet.
 - Carry out research via oral reporters, identify them and collect the information (interview your grandparents, for example).
 - Write the text.

Information that must be included in the text:

- Names and situation of the rivers and sources.
- Brief summary of the infrastructures along the river's course (mills, factories, farmhouses, dams, etc.).
 - Protected historic and cultural heritage.
- Most significant species of animals and plants.
- Compare the river's past and present (State of conservation, what activities are carried out, leisure...)

Summary Sheet



Photo

Name of the river/source _____

Origin of the name _____

Place _____

Type of protection _____

Most significant animal and plant species _____

Most important infrastructure _____

Notes (environmental problems, threats. Proposals for improvement...) _____