

Between us all

The river in my town

Activity

If you notice, in all towns or cities there is a river, fountain or spring. Why is that? Water is and has been essential for life and, when we stop to think about it, from the moment we get up to when we go to bed, we need water to do nearly all our activities.

Aims:

- Define and learn the concept "river" at the same time as it applies to "complexity"
- Reflect on the consequences of relations between living beings and their environment

Capabilities:

- Scientific, technological and health culture
- Learning to learn
- Social and citizenship

What is a river?

You can look up in the dictionary or in Internet and read: a river is a continuous flow of water...

Fortunately, if you read on, you will see there there are many more things: animals, plants, trees, Identify them and try to define a river bearing in mind all these elements.

Our rivers

Ask in school, at home, in the street. You can consider an outing to do this work.

A river is

Note down all the things in common from the definitions that have emerged, and with everything see if you can agree on a more or less correct definition.

Is there a river or stream in your town or village? What is it called?

What flora and fauna do you know in this river? (Alder trees, willows, hazelnut trees, ...: ducks, trout, frogs, dragonflies,...)

Is it now or has it been of any use? (Fishing, leisure, industry, transport, etc.) Which?

Surely you must know of some more. Try to make note of all the data you know in the following table:

Name of river/ stream	Town/Village	Uses	Fauna and flora that you know

State of our rivers throughout time

How are the rivers you have seen kept? Are they clean? Can you see any waste? Is the condition of the river related to the living elements you previously observed? (Waterside plants, fauna inside and near the rivers, etc.)

No doubt these rivers are in quite good condition. Ask in your family about the situation of the same rivers 40 or 50 years ago or before: What were they like? Why was this? What is the reason for these changes? There must surely be more than one reason (increased environmental awareness both in companies and among the general population, influence of industrial activity, improvement in water treatment conditions, etc.)

Try to reflect this in the following table:

Name of river/ stream	What it was like years ago	What it is like now	Reason for the change

In your town or village are there any organised activities based on the river such as walks, visits, clean-up, fishing campaigns, etc.? Comment on these initiatives with the rest of the class. Do you see the need to organise such activities?

Do you know the IBAIALDE campaign? If not, ask what it consists of.

In your school, have you participated? Ask the teachers.