

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a Derby Opportunity Area careers initiative
Curriculum Provision	✓	Enriching an existing 'Cornerstones' lesson plan
Employer Partnerships	✓	Resources and a visit from the Canal & River Trust
Reflective Young People	✓	Evaluated as part of the 'Our Future Derby' programme
Informed Career Choices	✓	Helping children learn about the work of a national charity

### Canal & River Trust helps to turn 'Pooh Sticks' into something meaningful

Dale Community Primary School in Derby uses 'Cornerstones' resources as a basis for lesson planning, which includes Science investigations throughout the year.

One of the Science investigations for year 3 children, titled 'How fast does water flow?' suggested that, *'Children visit a local river to see how its water flows ... observing how objects travel on the water. Children then release sticks of a similar size from different positions across the width of the river ...'*

Teachers decided to focus on the nearby River Derwent and use classroom resources provided by the Canal & River Trust, which include packs of materials specifically designed for primary school children, including their 'Explorers' resources.

An approach to the Trust said that, *'... The teachers like the C&RT resources available on the website - but I'm hoping we can include some sort of purposeful outcome from the project - perhaps applying the task to a real current issue and/or providing some sort of exhibition opportunity for the children's work.'*

A response from the Trust's regional skills and learning coordinator provided access to a range of additional information about flooding and flood control, as well as an offer to visit the school to provide feedback about their work and to talk about the work of the Canal & River Trust.

Children prepared jig-saw displays to show the special guest, when he visited the school.

### Benefits for the Students

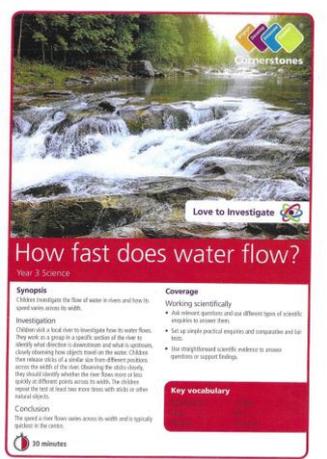
- *'[We learned that] the flood plain is the flat area but if there's heavy rain, it will overflow.'*
- *The River Derwent 'Is in Derbyshire' and 'It is not salt water. It is fresh water.'*
- *'He works for all rivers in Derbyshire.'*
- *'He was talking about how to stop floods.'*
- *By working for the Canal & River Trust, '... you could study rivers ... and keep them clean.'*
- *'I thought it would be cool because I never heard about people working around rivers.'*
- *'Some things I didn't know about rivers and he helped me use it in my writing, which was easier.'*

**Benefits for the School**

- 'Our children have very limited life opportunities and often do not have the aspirations to achieve more. As a school, we want to provide as many opportunities to see and do things that they wouldn't necessarily have the chance to.'
- 'I really like the purpose for learning element. It gave the children a real motivation to achieve and engage in the learning. It also encouraged them to work well together in the group task.'
- 'Would definitely try this again with other projects!'

**Benefits for the Employer**

- The Canal & River Trust is a charity that looks after 2,000 miles of waterways. The project contributed to their aim to bring this to life, 'because we believe that life is better by water.'
- The project made effective use of some of the Trust's existing education resources aimed at engaging young people, mostly in primary schools.
- 'I look forward to meeting the students and to see what they have been working on!'



A packaged lesson plan about river flow was made more real, local and purposeful for year 3 children by using materials provided by the Canal & River Trust and preparing displays about their work for a school visit by a guest from the Trust.

