

# River Doctors

## Project Kingfisher



### Key Stage 2 (includes river dipping) How healthy is the river?

In this session, children will become River Doctors. They will make observations, carry out an examination, take tests and finally diagnose the river. What does a healthy river look like? How healthy is their local river? By the end of the session, children will be able to answer these questions and will have a better understanding of how humans can have both a negative and positive impact on the river.

**Before the session:** Please split the class into 6 groups to facilitate activities.

### Session Objectives:

- To work scientifically to assess the health of a river
- To value the river environment

### Curriculum Links

- To carry out tests and observations to answer a scientific question
- To take accurate measurements using scientific equipment
- To use results to draw simple conclusions



### Session Summary

Introduction	Health and Safety briefing and introduction to the river
River Observation	First analysis, a look at the river to identify how much of the river environment is natural and how much is manmade
River Dipping	Using fishing nets, find out what animals are hidden beneath the water's surface.
Creature Score	Examine what animals have been found and calculate a score in order to rate the river's biodiversity.
River tests	Test tubes and thermometers will be used to test the turbidity, the pH and temperature of the river
Diagnosis	An analysis of the results, how healthy is the river?
Summary	A chance to reflect on what has been learned