



# North York Moors National Park

## River discovery day (Key stage 2)

This themed activity day includes 3 sessions:

1. stream investigation (measuring physical aspects of the stream and dipping for freshwater invertebrates)
2. an indoor activity about how freshwater invertebrates are adapted to their habitat
3. an indoor craft activity to design an alien invertebrate



This investigation uses a small tributary of the River Esk less than a mile from Danby Lodge National Park Centre. Children observe river features and measure and record data including width and depth of the channel, time taken for objects to float a measured distance and size and shape of material on the river bed. Children also collect and identify freshwater invertebrates using nets and a key and use their results to indicate water quality. All equipment provided.

Adaptations of invertebrates are explored by using props to transform a volunteer into a freshwater invertebrate! The indoor session expands on the adaptation theme with a 'match the adaptation to the animal' activity. In small groups children then design an alien invertebrate adapted for a freshwater habitat to take back to school.

**Age Range:** Years 3 - 6 (Age 7 to 11)

**Duration:** 10am to 2.30pm including lunch (we can be flexible on timing).

**Location:** Danby Lodge National Park Centre

### Main curriculum links

#### Science

- living things and their habitats

## **Key learning objectives**

Children should ...

### **Science**

- use an identification key
- see how invertebrates are adapted to a stream habitat

### **Other skills involved**

- team working
- using equipment appropriately and safely
- looking closely / observation skills

## **Learning outcomes**

### **All children will be able to:**

- match animals to pictures on a key
- identify ways in which an animal is adapted to its habitat

### **Most children will be able to:**

- use a simple identification key
- describe similarities and differences between a range of animals
- interpret results to provide an indication of water quality

### **Some children will be able to:**

- suggest how different animals are adapted to living in different parts of the stream habitat

## **Assessment for learning**

We assess learning using a variety of techniques appropriate to the activity such as: questioning, questioning games, observing how well children are performing tasks, checking results, quizzes and feedback forms.

## **Ideas for extending learning before and after this activity**

Use identification keys for other groups of animals or plants. Can the children design their own identification key for a small group of plants or animals such as trees in your school grounds – or to identify children in their class?

For information about rivers and river wildlife in the North York Moors go to:  
[www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/wildlife-and-habitats/rivers](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/wildlife-and-habitats/rivers)

The Canal and River Trust provides resources for schools at:  
[canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/learning-and-youth-development](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/learning-and-youth-development)\*

\*This is an external website for which the National Park Authority has no responsibility

### **Further information**

To find out more, make a booking or view other activities please visit our [Outdoor learning and school visits page](#).

You can contact the Outdoor Learning team on 01439 772751 or email [outdoorlearning@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:outdoorlearning@northyorkmoors.org.uk)