



## River Discovery Day

This themed activity day includes 3 sessions:

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



This investigation uses a small tributary of the River Esk less than a mile from The Moors 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:** The Moors National Park Centre



**Main Curriculum Links:**  
 Science - living things and their habitats

| <b>Key Learning Objectives</b><br>Children should ...  | <b>Learning Outcomes</b>   |
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| <p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use an identification key;</li> <li>● see how invertebrates are adapted to a stream habitat</li> </ul> <p><b>Other skills involved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● team working</li> <li>● using equipment appropriately and safely</li> <li>● looking closely / observation skills</li> </ul> | <p><b>All children will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● match animals to pictures on a key</li> <li>● identify ways in which an animal is adapted to its habitat</li> </ul> <p><b>Most children will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use a simple identification key</li> <li>● describe similarities and differences between a range of animals</li> <li>● interpret results to provide an indication of water quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Some children will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● suggest how different animals are adapted to living in different parts of the stream habitat</li> </ul> |

### 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: <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/rivers>
- The Canal and River Trust provides resources for schools at: <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/education>\*

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