



Activity three script - People and Industry

Slide 1

Hello and welcome back to Riverscape, an intergenerational project all about the River Nene, designed to boost creativity and wellbeing. We're on activity video number three where we take a look at people, buildings and industries associated with the river.

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Before we get started, spend a few minutes checking in with each other. How have you been? Do you have any news you'd like to share? How are you feeling about doing the next stage of your fabulous mini theatre? Which language would you like to say hello in today?

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Now to get our minds and hands prepared for some creativity. Find a clean page in your journal and take on the 60 second challenge. When I say go, recreate the following image using only a pencil. Ready?

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Go ... (60 seconds timed)

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In different parts of the UK and across the world people have words and phrases used by residents in their area. Here are four linked to Northamptonshire from Peter Hill's Folklore of Northamptonshire book. Pause the slideshow and talk about them between you. Have you heard of any of them before? Do you use any of them? Answers on the next slide.

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Answers

Slide 7 + 8

Let's have a look at industry using the river. Why do you think the River Nene was important for industry?

Stop the slides and talk with each other about the things you can use water for and also think about why the location of the River Nene was important. The location of the River Nene is marked on this map. What clue does it give us?

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- At one time there were around 141 water mills on and near the River Nene.
- Most have not survived, although a handful have been made into homes and one is a popular tea room.
- Some of the mills had eel traps. Once caught they would be sent off to London to sell at the markets.

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Here's an image of Woodford Mill in Thrapston, courtesy of the Nenescape website. Cotton, from old clothes collected by rag and bone men, was turned into paper up until 1859. By then, paper was so cheap to make, the mill no longer made enough money to stay open.

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Here's a local mill that's still active. What are they making?
Go to the 'Inside a working mill' video under activity video number three.

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Here's one more example of how water from the River Nene made Northampton famous for making shoes and boots. It's a slightly longer video, so you could come back to it after doing a bit more to your theatre if you like. Perhaps someone in your group worked or works in the shoe and boot industry and has

their own stories to share. Go to the video called 'Shoes - The Sole of Northamptonshire' documentary underneath activity video number three.

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We should check in with Ann now. She's going to help us add some buildings to our theatre. Remember to draw on inspiration from the things you've learned about today, adding in your own designs too. Ann might use some different materials too, so use what you have to create something special. Go to the video called 'Buildings along the river' to start.

I've been looking at some interesting facts about the River Nene. Along its 91 mile length there are 38 locks to help prevent flooding and to aid boats and barges travelling along the river. There are also villages and towns with people living alongside the river with lots of industrial mills too. So I've added a mill and a couple of cottages and a church building to my box.

I started by covering two sides with blue tissue paper for the sky and green tissue for the grass. I decided to wrap my mill around the corner of my box to make it look like the corner of a very large building. Using the brown card I lightly drew on the shape of a mill building and onto this, I printed some stone shapes, using green and orange paint mixed together. You could use crayons or pens to do this.

Once the paint was mixed, I dipped one end of my pencil rubber into the paint then randomly printed onto the brown card to create stone shapes. When this was dry, I outlined some of the stones, there's no need to draw around every one, the marks are just there to suggest the stones.

Using the blue glittery paper, I cut out lots of windows and I stuck them in place. Old mill buildings had lots of windows to let in as much light as possible and I think these windows look as though they are reflecting the light from the river. I then put in details with felt pens, a factory clock, door handles and hinges and grass growing up around the base of the building. I then added a couple of cottages and a church building, using scraps of patterned paper. Again, I added details with pens to bring the buildings to life. I collected a couple of small twigs from my garden, glued these onto the box and then added scrunched up tissue to create some trees.

You can add as much as you like to your shoebox, perhaps a whole village, a farm or any other buildings you might see alongside the River Nene. Have a great time creating your own riverside buildings.

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Next, we need to think about the kind of footwear we want to have for our river explorations. Ann has some ideas.

Today we are going to be drawing and decorating a boot or a shoe that we would love to wear out and about whilst exploring the River Nene. I've chosen to draw a boot, as this would give me a bigger area to decorate. I've got one of my boots that I'm going to look at carefully before I start my drawing. Perhaps you could study one of your boots or shoes to get an idea of the shape you need to draw.

Using a clean page in your journal and looking at my boot, I can see that the sole of my boot is roughly two times wider than the heel and the toe part slopes up a little bit. Using the full page, I'm going to draw a sloping sole that goes up a little bit towards the heel, back down and around. I'm using my pencil lightly so that I can rub out any lines that I don't need at the end.

The back of the boot looks fairly straight, take that up to the top, put a slight curve on that. And the top of the boot that goes around my ankle slopes upwards slightly and stops probably half way along the sole. Slope up lightly and stops about half way along the sole. I'm putting in several lines and then I can choose which one I'm going to use at the end.

Now the front of the boot where the laces go slopes down towards the toe, bring that down slightly. Now the part where my toes fit looks to be roughly one and half to two times deeper than the sole, so one, two and it's got a rounded edge to it. So I'll go up one, two and a rounded edge. And I'll join that up to where the laces go.

So, that's the basic shape of my boot. You could look through books and magazines or catalogues too for some pictures of footwear or if you have access to a printer you could print off pictures from Google Images and copy them using the tracing paper in your shoe box supplies. Secure your tracing paper over your image use paper clips or a piece of tape. And then draw over the lines that show through your paper. I'm doing this quite quickly but you can take your time and

draw carefully along the lines that are showing through. Once you've drawn all the lines and the details that you want, turn your tracing paper over and using your pencil on its side, quite firmly rub along the lines you just drawn. Once you've covered all the lines, take your tracing paper and secure it to a clean page in your journal, again with paper clips or a piece of tape. Go back over the lines a bit more firmly this time and this will transfer the image from your tracing paper on to your clean page. Remove the tracing paper and there you can see you can go back over the lines to make a more definite image, ok.

Now we're ready to decorate the boot. Its time to get your ideas flowing and we would like you to decorate your boot or your shoe with a River scape theme, probably with a river running through it, grassy banks, flowers and insects, trees and wildlife. The more colourful, the better.

Here's mine.

When I was looking at my boot I noticed the detailed stitching and it made me think of a bridge. Then I thought of the river running through and under the bridge and up to the back of the boot. Then a thought that the sole of the boot could look like a rocky river bed. I drew daisy like flowers around the holes where the laces would go. I added some grassy fronds and some leaves. I went over my drawings with a fine black pen. You could use a Biro or a really dark crayon. I just think it makes the detail pop out a little bit. I'm going to add to mine with a butterfly or two and a dragonfly which I've drawn on a separate piece of paper and I'll cut them out and I'll stick them onto my boot. I've had a great time decorating my boot, I hope you will too. Get your creative heads on and get cracking with your river scape footwear and HAVE FUN.

Once you've finished your footwear, carefully cut around it and on the back write a couple of sentences describing your design and why you've chosen it. It can then be kept in your shoebox as a "keepsake" HAVE A GREAT TIME

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In 2011, the public were asked to vote for their top three people with famous connections to Northampton and the county.

They were incorporated into a beautiful steel bench in Becket's Park. Have you sat on it?

The public chose Wenman Bassett-Lowke, a model engineer who founded toy company Bassett-Lowke in the late 1800's. They specialized in model railways, model boats and ships, and construction sets. Have you heard of them or played with any of their toys?

The public also chose architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh who re-modelled 78 Derngate in 1916 in his famous Art Nouveau style. Charles re-modelled Derngate for Wenman Bassett-Lowke! Have you been to 78 Derngate? It's stunning and well worth a visit. I've put a link to their website on the last slide. Take a look.

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The public's final choice was poet John Clare. He was known as the 'peasant poet' and was born in Helpston near Peterborough and died in Northampton. The River Nene was a huge source of inspiration for John and he wrote about it in his poems. 'Extracts of a Changing Landscape' is a project being run by Nenescape about John Clare. I've written a link to it on the last slide.

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Here's a section of one of his poems called A Ramble by the Riverside. Could one of you read it out loud?

If you would like to know more about John Clare, you can visit his cottage in Helpston. There's a link on the last slide.

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As today's activity is partly about people, there are a couple more we need to think about. You and the person you would like to spend time down by the river with. Ann is going to show you how to make them. As always, the video link is on the Crafting Relationships website.

Today we are going to make puppets using two of the lolly sticks from your shoebox supplies. One of my characters will be of myself and the other will be of my granddaughter Ila, as we do a lot of walking together and I would love to take her on a river walk. I think the best way to start would be to draw a simple stick man. I'm going to practice on some scrap paper first.

Now, just looking at my stick man I can see a couple of things that could be improved to give our characters more life. Use your pencil lightly so that any unwanted lines can be rubbed out easily. The head of the stick man is fine, a circle or an oval shape is good, but I can see that the neck on this one is too long, so I'm going to shorten that. Our arms don't really stick out from our bodies like that, they hang from our shoulders so I'm going to draw a line just below the neck to create the shoulders and then we can hang our arms off each end. Our arms bend in the middle so about half way down I'm going to create an elbow joint and then draw the rest of the arm and pop a hand on the end. So the arm, an elbow joint, the rest of the arm and pop a hand on the end.

The spine on this stick man is very straight but our spines bend and curve to allow us to move so I'm going to put a slight curve on this one. The legs on this stick man appear to be sprouting from the bottom of the spine but really our legs hang from our hips, so just like I did the shoulders, I'm going to draw a line just under the spine to create the hips, now we can draw a leg off each end. Again, our legs bend half way down, so half way down the line I'm going to put in a knee joint, draw the rest of the leg and pop a foot on the end. Draw the top half of the leg, the knee joint, the rest of the leg and pop a foot on the end.

You can choose which style of stick man you want to draw but I'm going to use this one as I've drawn the arm as though I'm pointing something out that I've spotted along river. Now I'm going to draw my stick man proper on to the strong white card from the shoe box supplies.

Now we need to build up the figure. We can put some clothes on him, a body shape. Fill out the arms. I'm going to be wearing trousers so I'll just draw those in. don't forget you can rub out any unwanted lines, it's quite easy, I used my pencil quite lightly. once you are happy with your figure, it's time to decorate. You can use felt pens or crayons, scraps of paper using the glue. Here's mine. For this one I used the inside of a business envelope to create my trousers because I like the stripy pattern. I did my jumper with felt pens so I could get some fine detail. I used some scraps of wool, or you could use string to create the hair. And for my walking boots I used the brown card the brown card from our shoe box supplies. Put in as much detail as you can to make the characters come to life.

And this one is of Isla. For this one I made her dress out of an old envelope because I liked the stripes. Yellow wool for her hair and for her wellies I used some scrap red paper. When you are ready, carefully cut out your figures and glue them on to your lolly sticks and then they will be ready to pop onto your river

scape box. The possibilities are endless, so get your imagination working and come up with two colourful characters ready to go on a riverside walk.

Have fun!

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That's it for activity video number three. I think we covered a lot and there's still so much more you can find out for yourselves too. Spend some time showing each other what you've done and how it makes you feel.

Stay safe and keep being creative.