



## **Activity two script Animals and Nature**

### **Slides 1**

Hello and welcome back to Riverscape, an intergenerational project all about the River Nene designed to boost creativity and wellbeing!

This is our second activity video and this time we're looking at animals and nature linked to the river. We'll be learning and also making our first two characters for your mini theatre.

### **Slide 2**

Before we get started, let's spend a few minutes checking in with each other, taking time to ask questions to each other and listen well.

Have you done anything since the last time you'd like to share? Have you found any materials or information for your Riverscape project? Which language would you like to say hello in today?

### **Slide 3 + 4**

Let's get our minds and hands prepared for some creativity. Find a clean page in your journal notebook and take on this 4 minute challenge. When I say go, the screen will change to a beautiful photo of the River Nene. Pause the slides and set a timer for 4 minutes.

Getting some practice in for when we write a mini play, I'd like you to imagine you are the one taking the photograph and you are describing your trip to the river to a friend. Write a few paragraphs in your book.

What is the weather like?

Describe how it feels to be there.

What are you wearing?

Who are you with?

What are you doing?

Have you brought a picnic with you?

What can you see - add in some artistic license here and make something up!

Go!

Now share your story with whoever you're working with and tell them which bits you enjoyed most.

### **Slide 5**

There are some brilliant words used by people to speak about the weather. Let's have a look at some of the ones used by Northamptonshire folk over the years. You can find them and lots more in a book called Folklore of Northamptonshire by Peter Hill.

### **Slide 6**

Pause the slideshow and talk with each other about what you think these weather words and phrases mean. Answers are on the next slide.

### **Slide 7**

How did you do? Do you use any interesting words or phrases to describe the weather?

### **Slide 8**

This is an image from one time when the River Nene burst its banks. Not great for a picnic!

### **Slide 9**

The River Nene has flooded many times over the years.

Have you ever seen the floods or been affected by them?

What do you think a flash flood is?

What do you think causes floods?

Click on the River Nene flood defence work link under activity two on the Crafting Relationships website and here a bit more about why rivers can flood.

### **Slide 10**

Let's move on to some of the flowers and wildlife you might see during a trip to the river.

Have you been to Ferry Meadows? They have an accessible boardwalk for everyone to use, and along the way, you can see bluebells in the Springtime, you might hear woodpeckers being busy and enjoy the sight of different butterflies flying around you. There is a link on the last slide to the Nene Park website where the Bluebell Boardwalk is. Have you already been? Would you like to go?

### **Slide 11**

In our next activity video, Ann is going to show us how to make a caterpillar and a butterfly. Here are a few butterflies you might see along the River Nene. If one catches your eye, do a sketch in your journal and use your design to decorate your version of the insects Ann is making.

This is a Meadow Brown butterfly. It is one of our most common butterflies, so keep an eye out for one during the Summer.

### **Slide 12**

Here are three other butterflies you might be lucky to spot. Use your internet to search for images. In addition, you might want to look up dragonflies and do some sketches. Any of these would look great on your mini theatre.

### **Slide 13**

Now it's time to make a couple of characters for your mini theatre. If you have a few extra bits and pieces of crafts materials, now is a good time to use them. Over to Ann to show us how. Click onto the caterpillar and butterfly video under activity video no. 2 back at the Crafting Relationships website.

Today we are going to make two nature puppets using the remaining two lolly sticks from our shoebox supplies. I've looked on the internet and there are lots of outline pictures of creatures and insects that are free to print off, colour in and cut out that you could glue to your lolly sticks. I'm going to use those later, perhaps on one of the sides of my shoebox.

For my nature puppets, I am going to make something a little more 3D. I've chosen to make a caterpillar and a butterfly. I think I could use these to tell the story of the life cycle of the butterfly.

First of all, we'll make the caterpillar. For this, you are going to need two strips of paper measuring 30cm or 12 inches long by 1 cm or half an inch wide. You can join pieces of paper to make the length you need. I've chosen to use two different colours to give my caterpillar an interesting body pattern. You could also use patterned paper, or paper you have drawn designs on. It's entirely up to you.

Lay one of your strips horizontally on to your table and put some glue on one end, and glue your second strip vertically overlapping your first piece. Now take your first piece back across and fold it over the top of your second piece, trying to keep it as straight as possible.

Take your second piece and fold that up and over your first piece, and again take your first piece and fold it back over your second piece and keep going with this pattern going backwards and forwards, keeping it as straight as possible, over and over. Using two colours makes this process a little bit easier. Now continue folding until you get to the end of your strips and it should look like that.

At this point, you can decide whether to add more strips to make your creature longer, or you could use this same process to make a grass snake, it would mean a lot more folding but it would be very effective. When you are happy with the length of your creature, glue the ends to make it secure. Now from a scrap piece of paper cut out a circle shape for the head and perhaps a couple of feelers, and glue this onto your folded strips of paper. More glue. Now we can draw a face onto our caterpillar. Then we can stick him onto our lolly sticks, and there you have your caterpillar puppet. I love it.

Now for the butterfly. For this, you will need a piece of paper measuring 15cm or 9 inches square. You could use plain or patterned paper, pages out of a magazine, newspaper, any sort of paper really as long as you start off with a square piece of paper. Fold your square in half, crease it, open it back up and cut along the fold line, now you have two rectangle pieces.

Take one of the rectangles and fold it in half lengthways, crease. Open it back up again and then using the short side, begin folding. I find it easier to keep folding the paper in half as firmly as you can, as many times as you can. So, in half, that's one, in half again, two, in half again, three. I think I'll just manage one more, four. So that's four folds.

Open it back up again and then you will see lots of crease lines. These lines will be a guide for you when you refold your paper. Now we are going to start with the short end again and we're going to fold the first piece up. We are then going to turn the paper over and fold it again, up to the next crease line, turn the paper over and fold it up to the next crease line. We're going to turn the paper over again, up to the next crease line. Continue folding and turning your paper until you come to the end. This is called an "accordion" fold.

Now fold the whole thing in half, give it a squish and to hold it in place you can use a bulldog clip or a clothes peg or you could put something heavy on it to hold it in place until you are ready to use it. Now take the second piece of paper and again fold it in half lengthways, crease it really well, open it back up. Fold all the four corners into the middle crease line as if you were making an aeroplane. You don't have to be too precise with this. Now we are going to do the accordion fold again. So, we are going to fold it in half and we are going to fold it in half again, that's two and in half again, that's three. That's just three times for that piece. And again this will show us the lines when we unfold it and they are the lines we are going to follow to make the accordion fold.

So, using the first one, it naturally wants to fold up to the first crease line, turn your paper over, fold it up to the next crease line, turn it over, fold it up to the next crease line and continue doing that until you've done all the folds. Again, fold this one in half and we are ready to attach it to the first piece we folded. So, using a little bit of glue, they naturally want to sit together, squish them together, give them a press, open them back out.

Now I'm going to use a piece of pipe cleaner to wrap around the middle of my butterfly but you can use wool, or string, an elastic band, anything that you think would secure it. I'm using a pipe cleaner because when you twist them together they naturally look like the antennae of a butterfly. I'll just snip that end off to level them up, make sure that's tight. You can now fan out the wings of the butterfly and that is ready to glue on to your lolly stick. Now with this one I did add some decoration. You could do this with pens or you could stick cut out shapes, I've just highlighted the wings, drew on a few spots, anything to make it as colourful as possible. Some nice lines, they look like the veins on the butterfly's wings.

Make your puppets as colourful as you can and then you'll be able to pop them onto your theatre. I really like these, I think I'm going to be making lots and lots of butterflies. Have a great time making your puppets!

### **Slide 14**

Now Ann is going to show us how to build up our river banks. Pop back to the Crafting relationships website and click on the 'making river banks' video. There is also a link to a page full of flowers you might see down by the River Nene. Have a look through for some extra inspiration.

### **Slide 15**

Wildlife is abundant down by and in the River Nene. We don't have time to cover everything in this video, so do some exploring of your own and see what you can find. Kingfishers, herons, muntjacs. The Canal and River trust website is an excellent resource and there's a link to their website on the last slide.

### **Slide 16**

Oh, OK, maybe we have time to meet one more river dweller. My favourite - the otter. Did you know they were almost extinct in the UK 70 years ago. Thankfully great conservation and nature restoration projects mean they have returned to our waterways. Have you ever seen one? They are nocturnal and tend to stay away from humans when they can. They eat around a kilogram of fish everyday and use their whiskers to pick up on vibrations in the water when catching their prey. Let's make one...Ann has completed sections of her shoe box theatre in a slightly different order to us. We have lots more to do yet! Click back to the Crafting Relationships website to watch the activity video.

### **Slide 17**

Making an otter.

### **Slide 18**

That's the end of the second activity video. Spend a few minutes showing each other what you've done. How are you feeling? I hope you are happy with what you've done. See you soon.