

ANGLING FOR ATTITUDES

Finding out what you and other people think about your river.

You will need:

A pencil and clipboard
Safety Code

1. LOOKING AT LANDSCAPES

You are going to give your riverbank a score, which will show how attractive you think it is. Below are some scales, each with a describing word at either end. You need to decide where your site fits on each scale. For example, on the first scale you may think your river bank looks very nice, but is not quite good enough to be called beautiful. Therefore you might give it a score of 4.

There are no right or wrong answers – this is all about opinions! Discuss each of the scales carefully, and decide which score the group is going to award the riverbank.

0	1	2	3	4	5
Ugly					Beautiful
Unnatural					Natural
Noisy					Peaceful
Dirty					Clean
Dull					Colourful
Smelly					Fragrant
Depressing					Cheerful
Boring					Exciting
Cramped					Open
Dangerous					Safe

Now add up all ten scores to get a grand total.

This final score shows how attractive the group finds the river bank. The smaller the score, the less attractive the bank. The highest score you could have is 50, and would show that your riverbank was a wonderful place.

2. OTHER PEOPLES VIEWS

What do other people think about the river bank? To find out you will need to interview 5 people. Always arrange a time for the interview in advance – don't just turn up and expect to be seen. Ask an adult to help you make the arrangements and to **accompany you on your interviews**. Try not to interview 2 people from the same household – they may well have exactly the same opinions! (It might be easier to photocopy the table and give it to 5 people to fill in, rather than trying to interview them in person.

	PEOPLE				
	1	2	3	4	5
Do you know the name of your local river? (Check that they do?)					
YES					
NO					
How often do you walk along the riverbank?					
ONCE A DAY					
ONCE A WEEK					
ONCE A MONTH					
ONCE A YEAR					
NEVER					
Do you think the riverbank is attractive?					
YES					
NO					
DON'T KNOW					
Which of the following would you like to see take place on your riverbank?					
LITTER CLEARED					
TREES PLANTED					
BANKS REINFORCED (EG CONCRETE, STEEL)					
UNDERGROWTH CLEARED					
PATHS LAID					
PATHS REMOVED					
BANKS RAISED					
ANYTHING ELSE					
NOTHING					
Do you think your local river is:					
A GOOD THING					
A BAD THING					
DON'T KNOW					

3. COUNTING PEOPLE

You are going to find out how many people use the riverbank, and what they are using it for. You will have to do this survey at a weekend, as this is when most people visit riverbanks.

First of all, has the public got access to your bank? If the answer is 'no' then you won't need to do this survey! If the answer is 'yes' you will need to spend a total of three hours watching your riverbank. You may want to break the time into shifts between different members of the group, or perhaps do an hour here and there throughout the day.

- a. Find a comfortable place to sit on the river bank and take a note of the time.
- b. During the survey period count the number of people you see on the riverbank and record what they are doing.
 - Walking
 - Exercising the dog
 - Fishing
 - Bird watching
 - Sitting
 - Playing Games
 - Jogging
 - Cycling
 - Littering
 - Other (specify)
- c. Although you can divide the survey time into sections, check that you have done a total of three hours.

RIVERWATCH SAFETY CODE

1. Watch out for danger at all times.
2. Avoid steep, slippery or crumbly riverbanks.
3. Only work near rivers with an adult and stay in sight at all times.
4. Don't rush about or trip other people over.
5. Cover cuts and scratches with waterproof plasters.
6. Don't eat or drink while working. Wash your hands as soon as possible.