Educational Boat Trips

Worksheets and Teacher's Notes

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Bridges

In Shrewsbury, there are 8 bridges, you will see 5 on our tour. They are used to carry different types of transport so designed differently.

In the boxes provided, make a sketch of 2 different types of bridge. Write what material has been to construct each one

Road Bridge
Materials Used –

Foot Bridge
Materials Used -

Which bridge is used the most? _____

Why do you think this is? _____

_____

Can you think of any problems that this cause in Shrewsbury?

_____

_____

Know Your Boat

How good is your boat knowledge?
See if you can beat your friends in this boat quiz.

1. Who is the person in charge of the boat? _____
2. What is the front of the boat called? _____
3. What is the back of the boat called? _____
4. If you stand on the boat and face the front, the left hand side is called the _____ side.
5. The right hand side of the boat is called the _____ side.
6. What colour light is on the port side? _____
7. What colour light is on the starboard side? _____
8. Motorised boats always pass each other on the same side. Which side is it? _____

9.What are the floors called on a boat? _____

10. This boat has no brakes! How do you think it can stop safely?

_____

Captain	Decks	Starboard	Stern
Red		Port to Port	
Port	Bows	Green	
Reduce power, and put into reverse			

River I Spy

Keep your eyes peeled as you travel along the river. How many of the following can you spot? Tick them off as you see them.

Score 5 points for each different item.

Swan	
Pontoon	
The English Bridge	
Fish	
A fisherman/woman	
Horse	
Train	
Life Ring	
Flag	
Shrewsbury Rowing	
Ice Cream Van	
Moored boats	
Another moving boat	
The Welsh Bridge	
The Kingsland Bridge	

How did you score?

50 – 75 …Excellent ! You are an eagle-eyed boater !

25 – 45 …Well done ! You have spotted lots of things !

0 – 25 …Keep looking ! You have made a great start.

River Flooding

This happens when water from heavy rain in the river catchment area rushes downstream. The extra water in the river channel causes the water level to rise and the flow of the river to increase.

Look out for the signs along the riverbank that the level of the water in the river has been higher than it is now.

Tick the following if you can see them: -

Muddy water lines
Rubbish caught in the trees
Soil washed away (eroded)
Any other examples that you can see

It is dangerous for boats to travel on the river if the water rises more than 1m above the summer norm.

Why do you think this is?

_____

_____

Sometimes the river rises so high that the water spills out onto the surrounding land (the river flood plain). Frankwell Car Park and cricket ground have both been built on the flood plain as it is a large flat area, and does not matter too much if it gets under water sometimes.

Do you think that a river flood plain would be a good site for a new housing estate? Give some reasons for your answer.

_____

_____

River Transport

Previously the River Severn has been used for-

Brewing
Tanning
Transporting wool to drapers
Transporting oil and iron from Ironbridge
Transporting people

The river is no longer used much for commercial traffic.

Make a tally of the present river transport that you can see.

Which type is the most plentiful?

Trip boats	
Canal narrow boats	
Private motor cruisers	
Rowing motor cruisers	
Rowing boats	
Canoes	
Any other type of boat	

River Wildlife

The river and its banks are home to a huge amount of birds, fish, insects and small mammals.

Make a survey of as many different wildlife creatures as you can see from the boat. Here are a few to start you off. Use the tallying system to record your findings

Swan	
Duck	
Fish	

If you look carefully, you may spot a heron or even a kingfisher.

Teacher's notes

About the Worksheets

- **These have been designed for students to perform field study techniques and activities whilst on board the boat.**
- **They could be used effectively within the geographical topic of water, transport, natural science and local history.**
- **Each worksheet focuses on different aspects of the river, with plenty of opportunity to look around without too much recording on paper.**
- **Students could be given as many or as few of the worksheets as desired, according to their ability, age, length of trip and purpose of visit.**
- **Opportunities are given for data collection using tallying and recording surveys, observations, sketching, drawing conclusions and a quiz.**
- **The sheets include a certain amount of information in order for the task to be competed independently, in pairs or in groups.**
- **If desired, the sheets could be distributed to the students in small groups, with each group focussing on a different topic area. Each group could then report back their findings in the classroom back at school.**
- **Some facts could be discussed further in the classroom.**

About the River

- **The River Severn used to be known to the Romans as Sabrina, and to the Welsh as Afron/Hafren.**
- **It is the longest river in the UK and flows for 210 miles from its source to the sea.**
- **It rises as a boggy peat on top of Plynlimon in Mid Wales.**
- **In its first 12 miles it falls about 1500 feet (463 metres).**
- **After passing through Shrewsbury it reaches Ironbridge Gorge – The birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.**
- **The river Avon joins the Severn at Tewksbury.**
- **At Gloucester the river is now tidal and no longer navigable due to the shifting sand banks.**
- **The Sharpness canal has been built to carry boats down to the sea.**

- **Severn Bores occur several times a year and are connected to the spring tides. The wave rides up against the flow and comes as far as Upper Lode.**
- **The Severn Estuary has one of the largest range of tidal rise and fall in world and certainly the largest in Britain.**

River Transport

- **In the past the river has been an important trade link from Wales to the Midlands and the Bristol Channel ports.**
- **It was used for commercial traffic until the 1960s when it started to decline.**
- **The wool trade dealing in Welsh wool was highly successful in Shrewsbury, together with the tanning and brewing. All were dependent upon the river.**
- **Originally gangs of men were employed to haul the boats along with ropes. They wore harnesses and were fiercely opposed to horses being introduced.**

Miscellaneous Information

- **Boats pass each on the Port side (the opposite to road traffic)**
- **When facing the bows when on board the boat the right hand side is the starboard with a green light.**
- **The left hand side is Port and has a red light. The way to remember is "left" and "port" have four letters and port is a red drink.**
- **Boats do not travel on the river if it rises 1 metre above the summer norm. This is because the water flows too fast, there may be debris in it and bridges become un-navigable.**