

# Act for Eden's Rivers ... for LIFE!

## Learning resources for Key Stage 2 classes

**River Champions Act for Eden's Rivers** is a thought-provoking fun and educational film with supporting learning activities, that help children to understand our direct connection with rivers – every time we use water and every time we flush dirty water down the drain. It highlights the threats to river wildlife and our precious freshwater supplies.

Armed with this knowledge, pupils are then inspired to identify and make a small change to their everyday life that will use water wisely or reduce pollution to protect nature.

The resources, in suggested order of use (each has accompanying teachers' notes).

### 1. To Flush, or Not to Flush?

A fun science investigation in which children compare a number of regularly flushed items with toilet paper, to find out which things are safe to flush and which are not.

N.B. For maximum impact, this experiment should be carried out BEFORE watching River Champions Act for Eden! Film, or the children will know the answer.

**To flush, or not to flush?**  
Experiment

It is important that we know what is safe to flush down the toilet. Flushing the wrong things can cause really big problems. Sewer pipes can get blocked, causing wastewater to come back into our homes and schools. YUK!  
Sometimes, these things end up going straight into our rivers and seas, causing pollution and harming wildlife. YUK!!  
In this experiment you'll compare a number of items with toilet paper, to find out which things are safe to flush and which are not.

**Instructions**  
1. 'Test-flush' toilet paper as a whole class, led by your teacher.  
**Results** Describe what toilet paper looks like after being shaken in a bottle of water for 90 seconds.

2. Now write down which items you are testing as a class and make predictions about whether or not they are safe to flush.

Bottle	Item to be 'flushed'	Prediction Flushable? Y/N	Result What it looks like after flushing	Conclusion Flushable? Y/N
A				
B				
C				
D				
E				
F				
G				



### 2. River Champions Act for Eden's Rivers

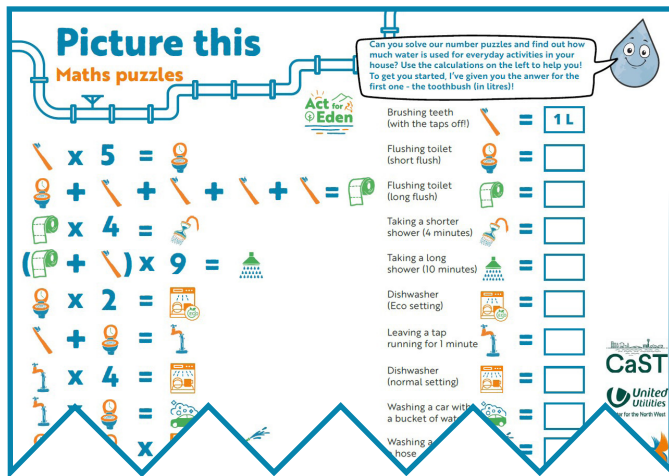
Presented by and featuring the children of Lowther Endowed School, *River Champions Act for Eden* is a short film (with accompanying comprehension activity sheet) that explores the journey that water takes from source to tap and back again, and calls for everyone to take on at least one of seven river challenges.



The film includes footage of the children reporting from Haweswater reservoir and a local Wastewater (sewage) Treatment Works, where they show us the scale of the problem of 'unflushables' – a skip-full that had been sieved out of sewage water.

### 3. Picture this

A maths activity that helps children learn how many litres of water are typically used during the most common daily / household activities.



### What teachers say:

"Having the River Eden on our doorstep, means the children relate to the topic. The video was brilliant and accessible for the children (especially when they knew it was a local primary school who had made it!)"

Information learnt was shared at home, especially about the 3P's!! The children have gained a sense of responsibility to take care of their local river."  
Year 5 teachers - Stanwix School, Carlisle

### Also available:

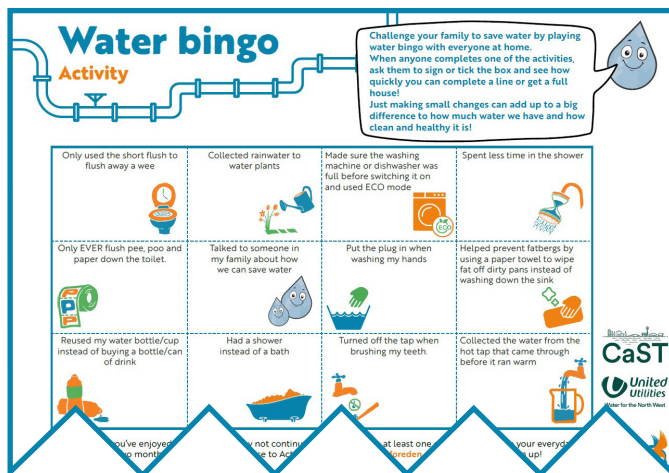
You may find it helpful to use these resources alongside some of our other free online resources and activity sheets:

*River Detectives Film* - a fun way to start learning about other aspects of what healthy rivers need and how farmers are helping to protect them;

*The Adventurous Salmon* - an illustrated storybook; or our  
24 *Riverside Activity Sheets*, for outdoor learning.

### 4. Water bingo

A homework activity sheet. Children challenge themselves / their families to see how many ways they can save water and reduce pollution at home by playing water bingo.



### Download the FREE resources:

<https://www.edenriverstrust.org.uk/primary-schools/>



### 5. Sewage in our rivers

Online resources, including an interactive map. Learn more about why raw (untreated) sewage is sometimes discharged into our rivers, and discover exactly where and how often this has happened in Eden's rivers in recent years.

**Act for Eden's rivers ... for LIFE!** is supported by United Utilities' CaST (catchment and strategic thinking) account to help pupils learn about healthy rivers and their link to our water supply.

