

Charting the Course of a River

Activity

Background

Rivers and their basins have been the origins of human settlements; well known examples include Harappa and Mohenjodaro civilisation. Even today many major cities of the world are located along rivers e.g. Delhi, Kolkata, etc. Millions of people around the world have always depended on rivers for their livelihood. A number of industries and other developmental projects are located along rivers. Some of these human activities are also today the cause of ill health of many of our rivers. This activity will enable students to understand various rivers across India, their importance, resources along them, causes of pollution and the need to conserve them.

Methodology

- Students of the class could be paired together for this activity.
- Each pair could select one river.
- Students should then with their respective partners collect information about the river that they have selected.
- Some representative questions have been provided below. Teachers could add more questions to these representative ones by conducting a brain storming exercise with the students prior to the start of the activity.
- Provide the students 15 days time to collect information.
- Students should be encouraged to develop a poster of the information that they have collected.
- Students could present their posters to the class. Each poster presentation could be followed by a discussion.

Objective

To enable students to understand that rivers are important resources

To enable students to understand that developmental activities have detrimental impacts on the river and its flora and fauna

Place

Classroom

Duration

15 days for information collection, 2 hours for class room discussion

Group size

Pairs

Suitable time

Anytime

Materials

Pen, books

Curricular linkages

Subject

Social Science and Science

Concept

Natural and physical resources, biodiversity, pollution, disasters

Some representative questions	Data collected
Name of the River (and its map)	
Source of origin (lake, glacial, etc), name of the source	
Important tributaries	
Important distributaries	
The states/ countries through which the river flows	
Legends associated with the river	
Projects which have been taken up along the river	
• For generation of electricity	
• For water supply	
• For irrigation	
• For flood control	
• Industries, etc	
• Sewage treatment plants	
How are these developmental activities contributing to pollution of water	
Any major environmental disaster that occurred in the river or its basin	
Various sanctuaries and national parks the river flows through	
Flora and Fauna found specifically in the river	
Any threat to their survival due to human pressure on the resources of the river	
Important waterfalls, dams, etc	

