

DESCRIBING THE RIVER THAMES

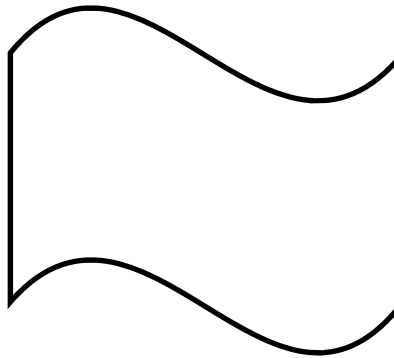
Name of group: Place: Date:

River Words

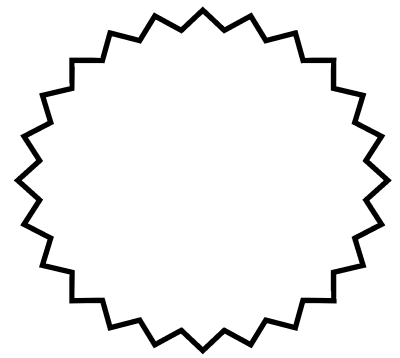
Take a moment to observe what is going on around you. What is the river like today? Think of as many words as you can to fill in the boxes below.



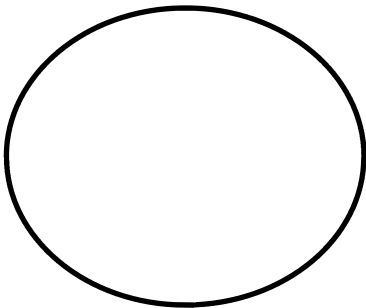
colour of water



movement of water



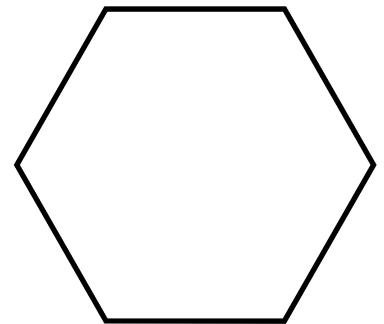
sounds of river



smell of river



people on water



things on water

Is the Thames a clean or polluted river?

On a scale of 1 to 5 rate how clean you think the Thames is.

a) BEFORE SURVEY WORK

Very Polluted

1

2

3

4

Very Clean

5

b) AFTER SURVEY WORK

Very Polluted

Very Clean

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA COLLECTION (KS2)

1. What do you call the beginning of a river? _____
2. Are we nearer the source or the sea here? sea ☐ source ☐
3. The Thames is 344 kilometres long. Guess how far it is to the sea from here!
_____ km

4. The tide is: rising ☐ falling ☐
5. The river is getting: wider ☐ narrower ☐
 deeper ☐ shallower ☐



6. Is the river straight here? yes ☐ no ☐

7. What do you call a bend in a river? _____

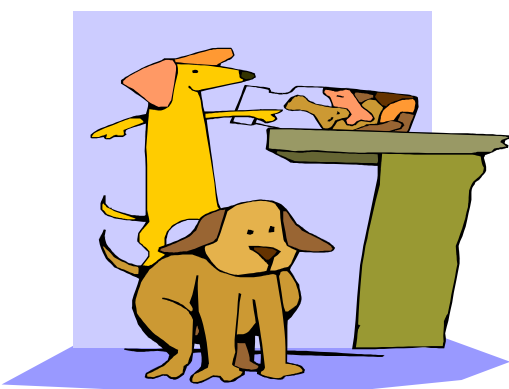
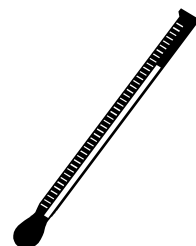
8. Guess how wide the river is. _____ metres

9. How deep is the river now? _____ metres

At low tide it is _____ m deep. At high tide it is _____ m deep

10. The air temp. is _____ °C

The water temp. is _____ °C



11. What is the speed of the river?

a dog biscuit travels 30m in _____ sec

Where does the river flow faster?

in the middle ☐ by the pier? ☐

Handy Hints to complete Environmental Data Sheet!

Questions 4 and 5. What's the tide doing?

Tides are the rising and falling of sea levels.

Rising tide This is when the tide is coming up the river estuary - it forces the river to flow the wrong way. The incoming tide causes water levels to rise.

Falling tide This is when the tide is going out to sea - the river flows the normal way (source to sea). Water levels drop.

Clue: The sea is to your left when you face the river. The direction in which the river is flowing, tells you whether the tide is rising or falling.

Question 8 How wide is the river?

Take a guess! It may help you to know that the pier on which you are standing measures 30 metres between the black piles (poles) at either end.

How many "piers" would fit across the river?

Question 9 How deep is the river?

Use the lead line to find out how deep the river is at the moment.

(The depth of the river is constantly changing, as the tide rises and falls.)

The difference between low water and high water is roughly **7 metres**

Question 10 Air and water temperature

Try to predict what the air and water temperatures will be before you take the reading. Do you think the water temperature will be higher or lower than the air?

Question 11 How fast is the river?

Use the stop watch and dog biscuit to work out speed of the river.

Then predict whether the river flows faster near the pier or in the middle.

Test your prediction by throwing in 2 dog biscuits - one near the pier and one in the middle of the river. Time how long they take to go past the pier (a distance of 30 metres)