



# River Thames Boat Project

## Activity Pack

### KS1 & KS2



## About the charity



The River Thames Boat Project is a charity with a 30 year history and we are all about making the Thames accessible. We provide therapeutic cruises for people of all ages with disabilities and for older people, as well as environmental education days for primary school children which are linked to the National Curriculum. We have two specially adapted wheelchair accessible community boats *Thames Venturer* and *Thames Discoverer* and we operate on the river between Chiswick and Windsor. A staff team of four with an amazing group of 70 volunteers work together to support the charity, maintain the boats, deliver our activities and help at fundraising events. We rely on grants, donations and our own fundraising to subsidise the cost of our days on the river. To book a cruise or an education day, to volunteer or to make a donation, please get in touch:

[info@thamesboatproject.org](mailto:info@thamesboatproject.org)

[www.thamesboatproject.org](http://www.thamesboatproject.org)

0208 940 3509

Registered Charity 1080281

Normally, we run two education programmes from *Thames Venturer*, our converted Dutch Barge, as well as informal sessions for youth groups and children's groups. We can offer bespoke sessions upon request.

'School on the River' is a KS2 hands-on Geography and Science workshop, lasting a full school day and based at Teddington Lock. Children learn from the environment around them, explore the foreshore and do science experiments into the health and history of the river.

'Eco Venturers' is for KS1 or KS2 eco-warriors who want to achieve an eco-schools green flag, or who are interested in sustainable technology, recycling and river wildlife. Eco-Venturers links to the National Curriculum. The KS1 session runs at Teddington Lock and the KS2 session takes place at Kingston riverside.

'Drastic Plastic' is a unit all about plastic pollution and its global impacts. Children consider where plastic waste comes from, how to prevent it, and how to replace plastic in their lives. They model how plastic flows along the Thames to join the sea, just like the water. It can be incorporated into either a 'School on the River' or 'Eco Venturers' day.

Youth groups, children's groups and informal education: we run river clean-ups and a variety of environmental activities for Beavers and Cubs, Woodcraft Folk and other youth groups. In addition, we also offer residential. Youth and adult groups can enjoy exciting sleepovers or weekends away, enjoying both boating and environmental activities on our Dutch barge, *Thames Venturer*.

## **About the activity pack**

During the current difficult times, all activities on our boats are suspended. We really look forward to being back on the river later in the year once the government restrictions are lifted. We know that we will be able to enjoy special time on the river with all our clients and supporters again, when the time is right. The boats are waiting patiently for us.



In the meantime, we have created this pack as an alternative to the education activities we normally deliver, but which have been put on hold for now. Some of the activities from the 'School on the River' and 'Eco Venturers' education programmes have been adapted for children to complete at home so they can still engage with the river and the project. Hopefully, this pack will provide an insight into the programmes we would usually run and some informative entertainment for children in anticipation of when we can resume our education days.



## **Notes to Parents and Teachers**

This Eco-Activity pack and the River-Based Experiments pack with the accompanying video have been created so that the activities can all be completed from home, using equipment that will likely be in your home already. Each activity is adapted from our education programmes and links to the National Curriculum so can be used as a supplementary learning material or as an informative practical activity for children. The Eco Boat activity is aimed at KS1 and the Eco Audit at KS2, but both activities can be simplified or extended to suit a broader age range. We hope these activities will help to keep children engaged until schools can join us on the river once more!

## Build your own Eco-Boat

### Equipment needed:

Items from recycling or around the home: i.e. plastic water bottles, yoghurt pots, paper, cardboard (get creative!), Sellotape, scissors, colouring pencils and pens and decorations.

### Links to curriculum:

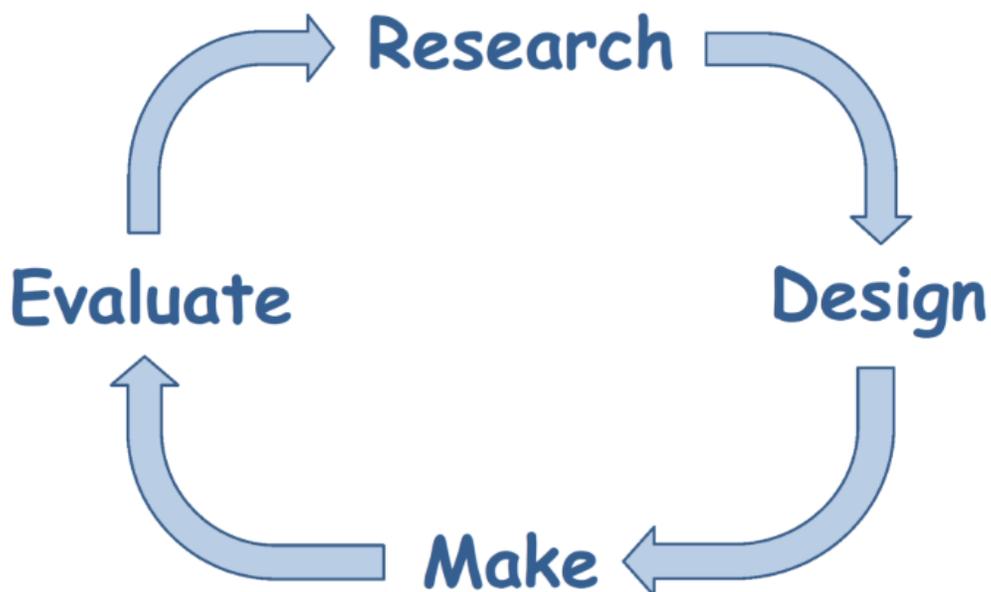
KS1, Science, Citizenship, Design and Technology, Critical Thinking, Eco Schools.

### Learning objectives:

To understand what being “sustainable” means in practice, and the ways in which we can make more sustainable lifestyle choices. For children to think more deeply about the water and energy they use.



## The Design Process



**Activity instructions:**

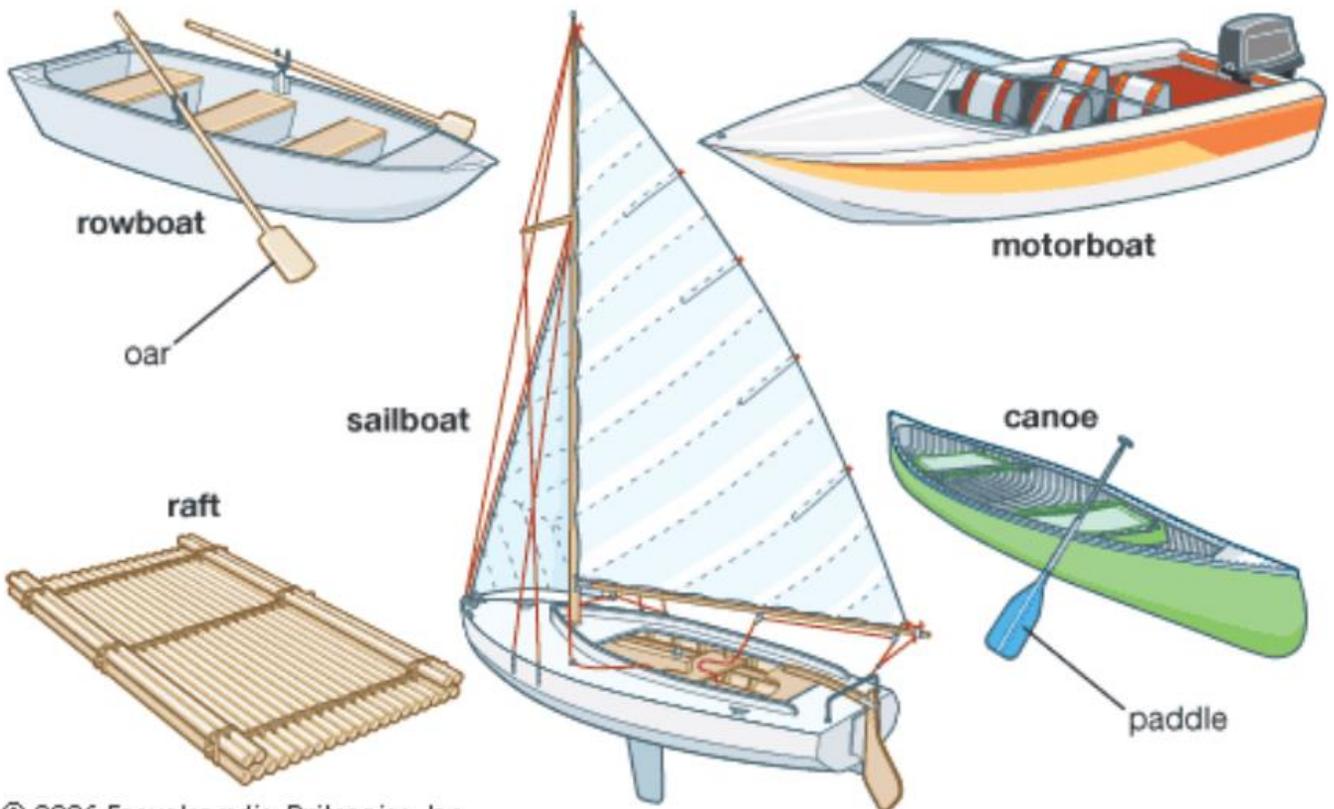
In this activity, you will be creating your own eco-friendly boat from items in your recycling, around your home and using your imagination! Make sure to include features that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. You will design, create, decorate and test your boat.

First, think of ways to make your boat environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Here are some points to get you started:

- What type of boat will you create and how will it be powered?

Engine, sails, rowing?



- How will you produce electricity on the boat?

Solar panels, wind turbine?



- Where will the water come from?

Collect rain in a rainwater butt?



- What other features could you add?

Do some research or use your imagination!

### Draw your boat design:

- Include your special eco-friendly features.

### Create your boat:

- Use items from your recycling and around your home. Plastic bottles, yoghurt pots and cereal boxes are all a great place to start! Why not add some decorations to your boat, too.



### Test the boat:

Does your boat float?

- Fill up your sink, bath, or paddling pool if you are lucky enough to have one, with water and see if your boat manages to float on top.

Can it hold any weight?

- If your boat floats, check if it can carry anything. For this, you can use Lego bricks, pebbles from the garden or anything else you can find as cargo! Add your cargo to the boat and see how much it can hold.

### Evaluate (this can be used as an extension for KS2):

- Did your boat manage to float?
- What worked well?
- Were you able to add some eco-friendly features?
- What could you add or change on your boat?

### Further tasks:

- Adapt your boat or create a new one to improve on the first boat you made.
- Design and draw the ultimate eco boat – use your imagination and get creative!

## Carry out an Eco-Audit of your home

### **Equipment needed:**

Print off a copy of the audit or copy it out, paper, a pencil or pen, a clipboard if you have one, and want to look more official!



### **Links to curriculum:**

KS2, Geography, Science, Citizenship, Design and Technology, Critical Thinking, Eco Schools.

### **Learning objectives:**

To understand what being “sustainable” means in practice, and the ways in which we can make more sustainable lifestyle choices. For children to think more deeply about the water and energy they use, especially at home. What are the consequences and what they could change in their daily lives?

### **Activity instructions:**

In this activity you are going to be an eco-detective and take an audit of your home!

You will investigate what features of your house are eco-friendly and good for the environment.

Use the audit checklist to assess your home, tick off the features you find and add anything extra you might have in your home.

You can also add any comments or ideas.

Print off the audit sheets, or copy them out, and attach them to your clipboard.

## Eco-Audit

Put a tick next to the features you find in your home.



### Home:

- Double-glazed windows
- Energy efficient light bulbs
- Insulated walls
- Solar panels
- Energy meter to monitor use
- Washing line
- Switch lights off when not in room
- Switch off electrical items when not in use e.g. TV, Xbox, PlayStation
- Houseplants
- Central heating on a timer
- Thermostat to control temperature
- Doors and windows closed in winter to store heat
- Doors and windows opened in summer instead of air conditioning
- Thick curtains to help insulate windows

Comments and extra features:



### Kitchen:

- Energy efficient fridge and freezer i.e. Grade A rating
- Large recycling bin
- Small waste bin
- Food recycling
- Reusable lunch box and food containers
- Reusable water bottles and hot drink cups
- Washing up bowl to save water
- Eco cleaning products
- Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate etc.
- Organic and responsibly sourced food
- Electrical appliances switched off when not in use
- Choosing products with recycled/recyclable packaging
- Using a bag for life or fabric bag instead of disposable plastic bags for shopping

Comments and extra features:



## Bathroom:

- Small washbasins or sinks
- Low flush toilets
- Recycled toilet paper (when available)
- Dripping taps fixed quickly
- Self-stopping taps and shower
- Eco cleaning products, shampoo, soap etc.
- Having showers instead of baths (baths usually use more water)

Comments and extra features:



shutterstock - 150968030

## Garden, allotment or outdoors area (if you have access to one):

- Compost produced from food waste
- Use rainwater collected in garden to water plants
- Grow own fruit, vegetables and herbs
- Plant bee-friendly flowers
- Bird bath and feeder
- Homes for wildlife i.e. bird boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog homes, butterfly house, beehives
- Natural pest control

Comments and extra features:



**Evaluate:**

- How would you rate your home based on the eco audit?
- What was the most eco-friendly room in your home?
- What extra features did your home have that weren't on the list?
- What could you add or change to improve how eco-friendly your home is?
- Are there any simple steps you could take or changes you could make to become more sustainable? E.g. switch to using energy-efficient light bulbs.

**Further tasks:**

- Design the ultimate eco-home! Use the features on the eco-audit to guide you. You could draw your design or create a list of all the eco-friendly features you want to include. Use your imagination and get creative!
- Write a list of 3 ways you or your home could become more sustainable e.g. start using reusable bottles and containers instead of single use plastics. Try and make these changes if possible.

## **A note from the River Thames Boat Project**

We hope you enjoyed both activity packs and the river-based experiment video. We are looking forward to being back on the river as soon as possible and hope you can join us! If you are interested in organising a trip with us, getting involved with the project, or donating, please contact the charity and continue to support us! You can get in touch with us via:

[info@thamesboatproject.org](mailto:info@thamesboatproject.org)

[www.thamesboatproject.org](http://www.thamesboatproject.org)

0208 940 3509

Registered Charity 1080281

Stay safe and thank you!

From the Team at River Thames Boat Project

