

# Educational programmes and activities in the Elan Valley

These pages are intended to give a guide to the most popular activities.

We are also very happy to design other topics or special areas of study if you would like us to.



Alternatively, schools may wish to carry out their own programmes of study, and the Education Room is sometimes available for this purpose if booked in advance.

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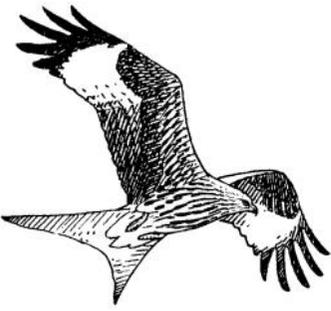
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Worksheets are available in English or Welsh.



# Notes...



## Key to Curriculum links:

### Science

- Sc1 Scientific Enquiry
- Sc2 Life Processes & Living Things
- Sc3 Materials & their Properties

- |   |            |   |             |
|---|------------|---|-------------|
| G | Geography  | H | History     |
| T | Technology | E | English     |
| W | Welsh      | A | Art         |
|   | M          |   | Mathematics |

# Early Years and Key Stage 1 Activities

Choose from a range of activities which can be adapted to suit the requirements of an individual class, depending on the number of pupils.

It may also be possible to modify some of the Key Stage 2 activities for these age groups.

Curriculum links: Sc1, Sc2, Sc3, G, H, E, W, A

1) Find out about the Water Cycle and then visit a dam and reservoir to learn about water storage and supply



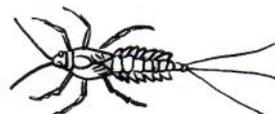
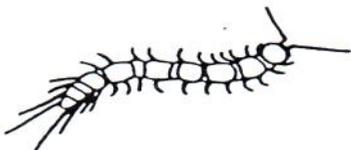
2) A short walk to see the buildings in Elan Village, and to make comparisons with the village at the

3) A nature walk in the woodland near the Visitor Centre, which will include several sensory activities



4) Woodland or freshwater minibeast hunts  
(Use of your own transport may be required for this activity)

5) Learn about Victorian history, nature and the water supply in our hands-on exhibition





# Water World

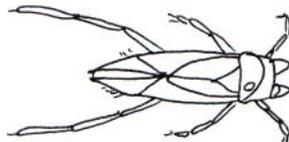


Learn about the exciting world under the water at our purpose-built pond!

Pupils can study the variety of life the water supports, how the animals are adapted to an aquatic environment, use keys to identify them and learn about their life cycles.

At Key Stage 3 and above, abiotic factors such as pH and temperature can also be studied.

An ideal half day activity would include studies of freshwater and woodland habitats at Primary level, this would extend to a full day at Key Stage 3 and above.



Duration of activity:	flexible, see above
Age range:	all Key Stages
Maximum number of pupils:	16 if the only topic chosen, 32 if <b>Bug Bonanza</b> studied same time (see next page)
at	
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc2
Time of year:	April to October

**Use of your own transport will be required for this activity**



# Bug Bonanza

Discover more about minibeasts in a woodland or grassland environment. Different sampling methods are available, and could include leaf litter hunts, sweep netting and using pooters to capture animals.

Use keys to identify the animals, discover who eats who and draw a simple food chain.

At Key Stage 3 and above, food webs and pyramids of numbers can be included in the session, as well as abiotic factors.



An ideal half day activity would include studies of woodland and freshwater habitats at Primary level, extending to a full day at Key Stage 3 and above.



Duration of activity:	flexible, see above
Age range:	all Key Stages
Maximum number of pupils:	16 if the only topic chosen, 32 if <b>Water World</b> studied at same time (see previous page)
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc2
Time of year:	April to October

**Use of your own transport may be required for this activity**

# Water Water Everywhere....

## A tour of the Valley

A guided tour around the Elan Valley dams and reservoirs. This activity is suitable for all ages as the tour can be adapted to fit the requirements of a variety of topics.

**Please note:** Teachers of Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils should be aware that a fair amount of travelling time is involved, and visiting inside the dam is not suitable for under sevens.

**Tours of the Valley can include any of the following:-**  
(please specify when booking)

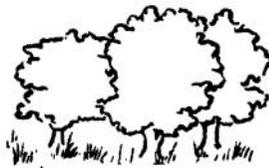
- Dams, rivers and reservoirs as a water resource
- A walk through the inside of a dam
- The history of the valley, brought alive with old photos
- Man's impact on the environment
- Hydro-electric power
- Management of woodlands as a sustainable resource
- Environmentally protected areas
- Tourism
- Upland hill farming
- Conflicts and demands of land use and dam construction - an ideal case study

Duration of activity:	half a day
Age range:	KS2 upwards (see note for KS1)
Maximum number of pupils:	1 coach or up to 3 minibuses
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc3, G, H, T
Time of year:	all year

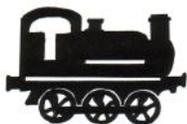
**Use of your own transport will be required for this activity**

# At the Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre has a variety of exciting and interactive displays ideal for learning about the Elan Valley's water supply, history and its wildlife.



Nature displays include:-



- Five different habitats
- Hands-on specimens and touchscreen computers
- Food web puzzle

Discover about Victorian history:-

- Why the dams were needed
- How the dams were built
- The life of the workers

In the Water Room, learn about:-

- Where the water goes
- How we use water



Watch the audio-visual programme:  
'Elan Valley - A Living Landscape'

Duration of activity:	up to half a day
Age range:	all Key Stages
Maximum number of pupils:	60
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc2, G, H, E, W
Time of year:	all year

Worksheets based around the whole exhibition hall can be provided for all age groups

# River Studies

- **Physical features**

The River Elan has many features which can be studied including meanders, erosion and deposition, confluences and U- and V- shaped valleys.

Activities can include field sketches, flow rates, river depth and width measurements, as well as studying man's use of the river.

**Pupils do not enter the water at any time.**

Duration of activity:	half or full day
Age range:	KS2 and 3
Maximum number of pupils:	30
Curriculum links:	G, Sc1
Time of year:	March to October

**!! Your vehicle must be no larger that a 35-seater coach as turning space is limited !!**

- **Riverside Explorer**

Find out about different river features and habitats and the wildlife they support on a short walk.

Learn why rivers are important wildlife corridors and carry out a survey to find out how good the River Elan is as a wildlife habitat.



Duration of activity:	half a day
Age range:	KS2 and 3
Maximum number of pupils:	30
Curriculum links:	G, Sc1, Sc2
Time of year:	March to October

**Use of your own transport may be required for this activity**

# The Water Cycle

Learn about the importance of water and its many uses in our everyday lives, identify the different stages of the water cycle and draw your own water cycle picture!

This is an indoor activity based at the Visitor Centre, using various displays. It is possible to also include a walk to see a dam and reservoir to learn about water storage and supply.



Duration of activity:	up to half a day
Age range:	KS1 and 2
Maximum number of pupils:	20-25
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc3, G
Time of year:	all year

## Water Efficiency

*(also available as Outreach in your school!)*

**Are you a water saver or a water waster?**

Water covers 70% of the earth's surface, yet it is in short supply in many parts of the world, including the UK in some years.



That's why it is essential that we make the most of water and do not take it for granted!

Learn how much water we waste and what simple changes you can make to help you to become more water wise.

Duration of activity:	up to half a day
Age range:	KS2
Maximum number of pupils:	25
Curriculum links:	Sc1, G, M
Time of year:	all year



# Woodland Studies

Pupils can carry out studies in both broadleaved and coniferous woodlands, to include biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) elements.



Studies of our woodlands through the changing seasons and small mammal surveys are also possible.



For younger pupils, we can also lead woodland walks to include various educational and sensory activities and games.



Duration of activity:	usually half a day
Age range:	all Key Stages
Maximum number of pupils:	30 (split into two smaller groups)
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc2, G, H, E, A, M (depending on activities chosen)
Time of year:	all year for some activities



**Use of your own transport may be required for this activity**

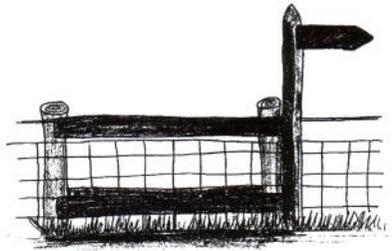
# A Walk in the Valley

Walks can be designed around a particular theme if required and can be of varying lengths.

Typical locations could include the old railway line (which follows a route alongside the dams and reservoirs), Nant y Gro Dam (which was blown up in the early trials of Barnes Wallis' bouncing bomb) or woodland walks.

The group can be led by the Environmental Education Ranger, or alternatively guide sheets can be designed on request for teachers to lead their own walk with their class.

Places of interest and other information are included as well as activities (such as sketching) for the pupils.



Duration of activity:	usually half a day
Age range:	all Key Stages
Maximum number of pupils:	30 - 60 (depending on walk location)
Curriculum links:	Sc1, Sc2, Sc3, G, H, T, W, A (depending on activities chosen)
Time of year:	all year

**Use of your own transport may be required for this activity**

# **Programmes for Key Stage 4 and 5 students**

**Studies are designed on request.**

Groups who have previously visited the Estate have studied woodland management, man's use of a glaciated valley and management of an area important for water resources, tourism and conservation.

The Estate has a wide variety of habitats including woodland, moorland, rivers and meadows available for study.

The Elan Valley is an ideal location for studying topics such as conservation, biodiversity, woodland ecology and management issues, as well as the conflicts and benefits of the construction of dams.

**Please contact me to discuss your specific requirements.**

