

BP-55 · Bigger Picture · AI Move of the Day

Research Your Nearest River or Lake

There is a river or lake near you with a whole story. Use AI to find its history, health today, and problems — then step outside and see what matches reality.

Start the slow burn

Build the prompt

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: Place Noticer

Choose river/lake + area

Ask factual prompt

Check sources

Map history + health

The local environment move

AI can help surface local environmental history: what a river or lake was, how it changed, and who is responsible for looking after it.

But local environment answers need checking. Use real sources, then observe safely with a grown-up if needed. Do not enter unsafe areas, water bodies, construction zones, or private land.

map history + health

Plan safe observation

Compare AI with reality

1 Pick a nearby water body

A lake, river, stream, canal, pond, tank, wetland, or reservoir can all work.



River or stream

Often connects to drainage, drinking water, floods, farming,



Lake or pond

Often connects to groundwater, biodiversity, recreation, waste, sewage, and encroachment.



Not sure?

Search a map with your area name plus “lake”, “river”, “pond”, “tank”, or “wetland”.

fishing, transport, or city growth.

River / lake name

Example: Ulsoor Lake

Area

Example: Bengaluru

THOUGHT BULB

A place becomes more interesting when you ask: What was it before? What is it now? What is happening to it?

☐

I chose one nearby river, lake, pond, or wetland to research.

2

Ask the factual research prompt

Perplexity is useful here because you need sources. ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini can help organise notes.

YOUR FILLED PROMPT

Tell me about [river/lake] near [area] — its history, its health today, and the problems it faces. Keep it factual. Separate: 1. Brief history 2. Health today 3. Main problems 4. Who may be responsible for maintenance or protection 5. Sources I can check 6. What I should safely observe if I visit from a public place

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Tell me about [river/lake] near [area] — its history, its health today, and the problems it faces. Keep it factual.

Separate:

1. Brief history
2. Health today
3. Main problems
4. Who may be responsible for maintenance or protection
5. Sources I can check
6. What I should safely observe if I visit from a public place

Copy my filled prompt

CAUTION BOARD

AI may mix up local places with similar names. Check location, date, and source before trusting the answer.

☐

I used the factual river/lake research prompt.

3 Verify with real sources

Environmental stories change over time. Old information may not describe today.

1

Official source

Municipal body, water board, pollution board, environment department, lake authority, court/order notices.

2

Map/source check

Check the location on a map and confirm the name is the same place.

3

Local reporting

Credible news reports, civic group updates, environmental studies, resident group summaries.

4

Observation

What you can safely see from a public place: smell, waste, water level, birds, plants, people using it.

SOURCE-CHECK PROMPT

Review this answer about [river/lake] near [area]. Make a table:

1. Claim
2. Source given
3. Date of source
4. Is it about the correct place?
5. What still needs checking?

Do not invent missing sources.

Copy source-check prompt

☐

I checked at least one real source about the water body.

4 Build the river/lake story map

Separate history, health, problems, and responsibility.

Question	What to look for	Example note
History	Original use, older name, community role, farming, drinking water, flood control, recreation.	This lake was once part of a chain of tanks used for water storage.
Health today	Water quality, sewage, waste, biodiversity, water level, restoration work, public use.	Recent reports mention pollution and cleanup attempts.
Problems	Sewage, encroachment, garbage, invasive plants, flooding, low water, construction, neglect.	The main issue may be untreated sewage entering the lake.
Responsibility	Which office, board, civic body, or community group is linked to maintenance.	Municipal body plus lake authority may share responsibility.

My water-body research notes

Health today: _____

Problems: _____

Who is responsible: _____

What still needs checking: _____



☐ I mapped history, health today, problems, and responsibility.

5 Plan a safe offline observation

The closer is not just reading. Go look at it this week, safely.

Look from a safe public place

Stay on paths, bridges, parks, or public viewing areas. Do not go near unsafe edges.

Observe, do not disturb

Do not throw anything, enter the water, feed animals, pick plants, or cross barriers.

Take notes, not risks

Write what you see: smell, water colour, waste, birds, plants, people, signs, drains, fencing.

My safe visit plan

I can look at it from ____ with ____ on _____. I will not enter unsafe areas or private land.

SAFETY BOARD

Go with a grown-up if needed. Avoid isolated places, night visits, flood days, polluted water, construction zones, private land, and unsafe edges.

☐ I planned a safe way to observe the place offline.

6 Compare AI with what you see

This is the slow-burn skill: AI says one thing, reality may show more.

AI said...

List one claim from AI about history, health, or problems.

I saw / checked...

Write what a source or safe observation showed.
Did it match, add detail, or disagree?

AI vs reality comparison

AI said: _____

A source said: _____

I observed: _____

Match / mismatch / still unsure: _____



SLOW-BURN WIN

You are not just using AI. You are using AI, sources, and your own eyes together.

☐

I compared AI's description with a real source or safe observation.

7 Optional: make your AI Move card

A small reminder of the local environment move.

CARD COPY

Title: AI Move of the Day

Move: Research the river or lake nearest to where you live.

Prompt: "Tell me about [river/lake] near [area] — its history, its health today, and the problems it faces. Keep it factual."

Rule: Verify with real sources and observe safely offline.

Closer: Go look at it this week — see what AI described.

☐ I made, sketched, or saved the AI Move card.

Final 5-minute move

Complete this sentence: “Before this, I thought this place was just _____. Now I know it has a story about _____.”

My river/lake story sentence

Before this, I thought this place was just _____. Now I know it has a story about _____.

☐ I kept the research factual.

☐ I verified with a source instead of trusting AI alone.

☐ I have a safe plan to observe the place offline.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **“A local water body is not just scenery. It is history, health, and responsibility.”**

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