

Natural Flood Management

KS2 Lesson plan

Learning objectives

Understand what natural flood management is and give examples of how it can be used to reduce the risk of flooding

Understand that NFM provides multiple benefits for people and wildlife.

Key words

Habitat

Buffer strip

Leaky dam

Wetland

Natural flood management

What you will need

- Cardboard boxes or shoe boxes
- Newspaper to make hills and bushes
- Card
- Paints
- Twigs and leaves (can be used to represent trees and vegetation)
- Scissors
- Toy animals

Starter – Recap on some of the things that have a negative impact on river management which you have talked about in previous lessons, for example: cutting trees down, intensive farming leading to compaction and erosion, and straightening riverbanks and not allowing them to overflow into floodplains.

What would you do if you were the Wyre River Trust? Ask the children to brainstorm in groups what they would do to help prevent flooding without the help of the natural flood management handbook. Discuss these ideas as a class, using the handbook if needed. Ask what other benefits these ideas might also provide, for example better water quality or improved habitats for wildlife.

Activity 1: Show this video to help explain what natural flood management is all about. <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/what-is-natural-flood-management/>. You could also show them a video of a leaky dam in action available on our website (LINK).

Activity 2: Create your own River! Ask the kids to create a model river in pairs. Have some of them design rivers that are poorly managed for natural flood management, and others design one that includes natural flood management measures such as trees, buffer strips, wetlands and leaky dams. There are some good examples here:

<https://www.facebook.com/cumbriawildlifetrust/posts/10162722169570722>

Plenary

Recap on some of the natural methods used to reduce flood risk and the other benefits these can provide. End by asking the pupils how they could carry out mini natural flood management in their own gardens (Page 27 of the Natural Flood Management storybook).