

# River Detectives at a Distance

**Theme:** Waterways Past, Present and Future

**Objective:** To understand waterways as the life-blood of the land; to know their role in history, appreciate the issues of today and dream of their future potential.



Please adhere to all current COVID-19 advice, particularly for activities in orange. Make outings part of your daily exercise and interview others remotely by phone, zoom, facetime, etc

Ways to be Smart	Knowing	Understanding	Applying	Analysing	Creating	Evaluating
 <b>Word Smart</b> I learn best by reading, writing & speaking	Watch the videos ' <a href="#">Waterways for Life</a> ', ' <a href="#">Nine Days on Tang Tang Swamp</a> ' and ' <a href="#">Making Every Drop Count</a> ' and list the reasons why healthy waterways are important for people, land, plants, animals, landscapes & communities.	Type your waterway into the search bar of the <a href="#">Culture Victoria</a> website and explore videos, photos and articles to learn of Aboriginal perspectives in the life and times of your waterway. Prepare a short oral presentation to share findings.	Using the template in the activity ' <a href="#">A Day in the Life Of ...</a> ' plan and write an account of a living or non-living thing interacting with a waterway. Immerse yourself in the role and present it as a story, letter, comic strip or journal.	Analyse the meaning of these river sayings; 'Still waters run deep', 'Live your life like a river', 'A river cuts through rock not because of it's power but it's persistence'. Google other river sayings that have meaning for you.	 Watch the <a href="#">Three Rivers Flow</a> video to see how important the Murray, Campaspe and Goulburn Rivers are to Yorta Yorta children. Create and perform your own rap about what your local waterway means to you.	Watch the ' <a href="#">Water For Country</a> ' video or ' <a href="#">Campaspe River Tour</a> ' video and write a persuasive text to explain why traditional owners should be involved in waterway management decisions with land managers.
 <b>Number Smart</b> I learn best by working with numbers/science	 Use this <a href="#">3D map</a> as an example to a map your waterway. Research it's source, path, surrounding land uses, towns, tributaries and significant features. Consider scale, direction, topography and a key.	Type your waterway into the search bar of the <a href="#">Culture Victoria</a> website and explore videos, photos and articles to learn of Aboriginal perspectives in the life and times of your waterway. Add your findings to the timeline activity in row 5, column 3	Challenge yourself to solve some of the waterway <a href="#">Brain Benders</a> . Interpret the problem, apply an appropriate strategy, come up with a solution and explain your process to someone else. Did they work it out the same way?	 Use Google to research the lengths of waterways in your region and graph them in order from shortest to longest. Label your graph.	Use <a href="#">Google Maps</a> to measure the length of your waterway or just a segment between two towns. Right click on your starting point, choose 'measure distance' then click along your chosen path reading the kms at the bottom.	 A fox, a chicken and a sack of grain must cross a river one at a time. The fox can't be left with the chicken; the chicken can't be left with the grain. How can you get all three across safely? Google other river crossing riddles.
 <b>Picture Smart</b> I learn best by drawing and visualising	Study <a href="#">maps</a> of your catchment to familiarise yourself with the network of waterways in your area. What are their names? Why are they where they are? Have they influenced the location of towns? I wonder why?	 Watch <a href="#">Aunty Esther's Story of Change</a> and sketch images/symbols to represent her powerful story of Barapa Barapa traditional owners' timeless connection to the Gunbower Forest wetland.	Complete the <a href="#">Potential Problems</a> activity then watch a video from the <a href="#">North Central, Wimmera, Corangamite, North East or Melbourne Water</a> regions to learn of the wonderful programs that improve waterway health.	Analyse the difference between <a href="#">photos</a> of healthy and unhealthy waterways and then use two contrasting photos or your own sketches to create a dazzling optical illusion by completing the <a href="#">Change Your Perspective</a> activity.	Using the <a href="#">riparian zone factsheet</a> or <a href="#">poster</a> to learn the characteristics of a healthy/degraded waterway. Design and create a diorama to model the two contrasting scenes or make two opposing mini catchments in your yard.	Watch this <a href="#">video</a> to learn how early settlers relied on Aboriginal navigators and canoe builders to transport goods, stock and people. Illustrate forms of river transport throughout history and compare the pros and cons of each type.
 <b>Body Smart</b> I learn best by being active and hands on	Go on a waterway treasure hunt using these <a href="#">clues</a> or make up your own. Take photos, sketch findings, make a note of how people have/do/could use your waterway, take a sound recording, note the width, clarity, speed and habitat.	 Enjoy the <a href="#">Racing Rivers</a> activity with your class or adapt it to play with your family. Learn about the journey of a waterway through history and through the landscape and get lots of exercise at the same time!	Calculate the length of your waterway or just a segment between two towns in your area. Walk or cycle the equivalent length over weeks or months during daily exercise at your house / on your way to school, in the school yard.	Be a citizen scientist. Survey the life in your backyard, school yard, local park or at your waterway and use an <a href="#">App</a> to identify and record the plants, frogs, birds, platypus, waterbugs, etc, you find there that all rely on healthy water to survive.	 Design and build a model to showcase a vision for the future of your waterway using <a href="#">Lego</a> . Display its potential as a hub for biodiversity, education, culture, recreation and community	Watch a beautiful video about sharing culture on the banks of <a href="#">Barengi Djul</a> – the Wimmera River in Wergaia language spoken by the Wotjobaluk people. Collect some chalky rocks, grind them to make ochre and paint body patterns.
 <b>People Smart</b> I learn best by working with others	Survey friends and family to see how many waterways they can name in your catchment, in Victoria, in Australia. Can they name one for each alphabet letter? Can they name any traditional owner groups and their country?	Interview people of various ages / backgrounds; what do they know about your local waterway, how do they <a href="#">feel about it</a> , how do they <a href="#">use it</a> , what are its assets/threats, what are their <a href="#">memories</a> , what are their hopes for its future?	Interview an older person in your community and research the history of your waterway. Make a timeline to display times of drought/flood, when bridges/weirs were built, if/when irrigation was introduced, when towns began.	Watch the <a href="#">Surveying Gurru</a> video to learn how Aboriginal people used Lake Hindmarsh in traditional life. Then watch the <a href="#">Mooroobull Yaluk</a> video to see how Wadawurrung traditional owners are sharing cultural practices today.	Plan and film a video to raise awareness of your waterway. Showcase its best features, acknowledge its faults, explain why it is important to you and share your vision for its future. Be inspired by this <a href="#">video</a> by Epsom PS	Research a waterway you'd like to visit and plan your next holiday / camping trip. Where will you stay, what will you pack, how much will it cost, what activities will you do? Present your ideas as a photo board to convince your family.
 <b>Self Smart</b> I learn best by myself	List or sketch the ways your lifestyle is influenced by waterways. How do they impact the food you eat, the clothes you wear, where you live, your leisure time, your community? What can you do to ensure they stay healthy?	 Find out what <a href="#">CMA region</a> you belong to then check out their <a href="#">website</a> to research the waterways in the region and the current projects to improve the health of their catchments.	Go on a self-guided virtual tour of a waterway near you using Google Earth in 3D mode. Follow your waterway, explore surrounding land uses, assess its visual health, discover the towns along it and how they interact with it.	 Often our best childhood memories happen near water. Listen to ' <a href="#">When We Were Kids</a> ' and tell others about special times spent at a river. Draw a picture, write a poem or a story to retell the experience.	Use the <a href="#">Coliban River's journey poster</a> as inspiration to create a poster about your own local waterway. Showcase its source, path, catchment, major towns, history, most notable features, flora, fauna and users.	Explore the <a href="#">Run of the River</a> game. Water is scarce and your challenge is to share river water with wetlands, farms and towns whilst keeping the mouth connected to the ocean and balancing other variables that are thrown at you.

Please adhere to all current COVID-19 advice to safeguard your health <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/how-stay-safe-and-well-covid-19>

Send your efforts to your teacher and it may be shared in the school newsletter or on the Billabong Banter tab of [www.riverdetectives.net.au](http://www.riverdetectives.net.au) Make sure you have permission from parents first.