

"Connections, Routes and Networks".

Water Heritage Day

Sunday 25th August



OPW

The source of most rivers start on high ground with just a single trickle of water coming from rain, an underground spring or melting snow. Due to gravity, the water will always run downhill and will run into another trickle to form a stream and then a river. The river cuts or erodes its way through soil and rock where there is the least amount of resistance.



The soil and rock carried by the river is called sediment. The river forms a channel and riverbed with banks on either side. The area around the river that floods is called the floodplain. The river will eventually run into a larger water source like another river, a lake or the sea. Rivers provides shelter and food for a wide variety of animal and insects.

*Some of the rivers in Ireland were named after goddesses from Celtic Mythology.*

*The Shannon is named after Sinann and the Boyne after Boand.*

Finds the words in the box below.....!

ECOLOGY

NORE

OTTER

BIRD

MUSSEL

RIVER

SNAIL

DUCK

V	R	E	C	O	L	O	G	Y	A	H	I	L	P	G	W
B	C	T	U	D	M	Q	H	M	U	S	S	E	L	B	D
I	S	N	O	R	E	B	U	K	D	S	M	P	F	Z	U
R	B	M	K	X	P	L	F	A	S	N	A	I	L	D	C
D	X	O	T	T	E	R	U	I	L	F	P	W	A	V	K
N	V	G	Q	K	W	N	M	R	I	V	E	R	D	Y	I

*Kilkenny Castle stands overlooking the River Nore. This river is one of the most important ecological areas in Kilkenny City and county. The river supports several habitats and species that are protected under the EU Habitats Directive including alluvial woodland, floating river vegetation, otter, crayfish and lamprey. This piece of green infrastructure is also home to trout, mute swans, grey herons and multiple insects along with aquatic invertebrates such as snails, worms and leeches. Further north in Co. Laois, the river Nore is home to the critically endangered and very important species of the freshwater pearl mussel, which is very sensitive to water quality. The mussels like fairly fast flowing water with good oxygen levels and low levels of nutrients. They can filter up to 50ltrs water a day and help to keep our rivers clean.*

**FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE WORDS BELOW.....**

**SISTERS**

**AMPHIBIANS**

**ECOSYSTEMS**

**SUBTERRANEAN**

**SHANNON**

**MOUTH**

The River \_\_\_\_\_ is the longest river in Ireland and measures 360 KM.

Rivers support lots of wildlife including insects, mammals and \_\_\_\_\_.

Some rivers run below the ground surface, these \_\_\_\_\_ rivers can be natural or the result of human engineering.

Rivers support some of the most important and diverse \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.

The River Barrow, River Nore and River Suir are known as The Three \_\_\_\_\_.

The start of a river is called the source and the end of it is called the \_\_\_\_\_.