



Lesson Plan 8: Rivernames

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



This lesson is part of a series of 8 lesson plans based on the “Explore the Nore” poster and River Nore Heritage Audit. It is aimed at 4th, 5th & 6th classes in primary schools. The project is an action of the Kilkenny Heritage Plan, and is funded by the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council and the Heritage Council. For further information contact dearbhalal.edwidge@kilkennycoco.ie. Tel: 056-7794925. www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/

■ Learning objectives

HISTORY

Strand: Story

Strand unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past

Content objectives

- learn about the people, events, issues and cultural experiences which have helped to shape the local community and the environment
- develop a sense of responsibility for, and a willingness to participate in, the preservation of heritage

Skills and concepts to be developed

- change and continuity
- using evidence

■ Learning activities

Lesson plan: match the name of the river to the descriptions provided.

The Nore has been a prime fishing spot for centuries given the abundance of salmon and other fish in its waters. Cross over a bridge along the Nore and peer along the banks and there you will see fishermen waiting patiently for a bite. These fishermen and those before them gave names to favourite places along the river. These are marked as blue spots along the river on the poster. These names provide a link to the past and thanks to this poster will be remembered for all. Most of the names are in English, indicating that they are of not great antiquity. This is interesting because it means that each generation of fisherman added their own names to their favourite bend and stretches in the river. Sometimes the stories behind the names are known. Can you find the following names on the map?

Mouth of the O’Beag	Where a small stream called the O’beag meets the Nore. Fast water, excellent fished with a bait of worms. Salmon stood here having passed a series of rapids.
The Tail of the Bracken	The only place on the Nore to find Gudgeon is on the sandy bottom

		of the Bracken here.	
	The Shot	Water beginning to speed up after long slow run	

■ Linkage and Integration

GEOGRAPHY

Strand: Natural environments

Strand Unit: Land, Rivers and Seas of my county

Strand: Human environments

Strand Unit: Living in the local community

LANGUAGES: Irish

■ Differentiation

Can you help us?! We would like to know the names you give to the rivers near you, and also to the fields and street names, and old buildings in your area. What stories are associated with where you live? Ask your grandparents and make notes and tell the class. Be like a reporter investigating the past!

Fishing activities – what time of year does fishing take place on the river? What species are fished?

■ Resources

River Nore Poster

Nore Heritage Audit Vol. 1, pages 39-52

External references:

“More about Maps” (a resource for primary schools about maps and placenames)
[http://www.osi.ie/Education/Primary-Schools/Seniors/More-about-Maps-\(1\).aspx](http://www.osi.ie/Education/Primary-Schools/Seniors/More-about-Maps-(1).aspx)

<http://www.townlands.net/a-field-name-research-handbook/> how to record fieldnames

<http://www.logainm.ie/> Placenames of Ireland database (includes educational resources)

■ Evaluation