

Unit 5 Waterfalls/lakes

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To explain how waterfalls, lakes and glaciated U-shaped valleys are related.

1.1. Go to Mountain>>Section 5 Screen 1

“Did you know that some of the world’s most spectacular waterfalls and lakes are in deep mountain valleys? Shall we see why?”

- ▶ Watch the video 27 to see one of the world’s most famous valley waterfalls, Yosemite in California.
- ▶ ALSO watch the video about lakes, 67, the Lake District to see one closer to home in a more familiar environment.

1.2. Go to Textbook pages 16-17

“Let’s find out how these deep valleys formed”.

- ▶ The key to this has to be to look at the diagram on page 16. Explain (as we now know about ice erosion) how the weight of ice means it pushes down hard on the bottom and uses stones trapped in its lower surface to scrape the valley floor rock. As a result it cuts a trench. That’s quite different to a river valley. Glacial valley trenches are called U-shaped valleys.

1.3. Go to Textbook pages 18-19

“What happens when the ice melts away?”

- ▶ This has been partly covered above, but now we can bring it all together to see how the lakes of the Lake District formed.
- ▶ Without ice in the valleys, tributary rivers now fall down almost sheer sides, which is why they are so spectacular.



Play video 27
and also possibly 67.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. TG photocopiable page 48-51

- ▶ The Teacher's Guide has comprehension activities.



2b. Literacy activity

- ▶ There is no literacy activity to go with this physical geography topic, but there are comprehension sheets in the Teacher's Guide pages 48-51.

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Ask children to find out the names of a range of valley lakes. They could find all of the Lake District lakes in the Creative Topics book. They may be able to put small flags of each name on a map of the Lake District pinned to the classroom wall. This develops research and also spatial skills.
- ▶ Children can also find out about a specific lake, such as Buttermere, and make it into a project, then compare the range of lakes they have researched. It is worth avoiding Windermere and using obvious finger lakes such as Ullswater.