

# River

## Unit 6 Valleys

### 1. Whole class instruction

**Objective:** To see how rivers are different shapes and, in particular, to look at canyons.

#### 1.1. Go to River>>Section 3 screen 7

**“Near to us we don’t think of valleys very much because they are broad and wide. But near to the sources of rivers and in mountain areas valleys can be very narrow and steep-sided...”**

- ▶ Open the video activity on the screen. It tells about the Grand Canyon.
- ▶ Watch the video and replay it until students are clear that it is cut in layers of hard and soft rock.

#### 1.2. Go to Textbook pages 28-29

**“Let’s find out how deep valleys like the Grand Canyon were formed”.**

- ▶ Help children to see that the land is cut into by rivers, but that rivers do not widen the valleys directly.
- ▶ Explain that you can see this when a river cuts a gorge (but that normally landslides and other processes would be set in action to widen it).

### 2a. Group exploration

#### 2.1. Grand Canyon video

**Go back to the Grand Canyon video and divide up the class into groups.**

- ▶ One group could think up how to get from one side of the rim to the other.
- ▶ A second group could consider how to make a trail accessible to hikers (it is a mile deep and the switchback route is 17 miles) and some of the health issues involved.



Start the video on the Grand Canyon.

- ▶ A third group could consider rescues of hikers trapped in the canyon.

## 2b. Literacy activity x 2

Go to Literacy>>River>>Unit 2 canyons

**“What do you think you would experience if you were to travel along a canyon by raft?”**

- ▶ This unit is a diary of the Powell Expedition of the late 19th century. It was the first European-American expedition ever to travel the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

Go to Literacy>>River>>Unit 5 Rescue

- ▶ Literacy Unit 5 deals with an accident in a canyon. You may wish to follow this through as an alternative or addition to the work of group three in section 2a above.

## 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 about other famous gorges, such as the 3 gorges on the Yangtze, page 46 in the textbook. In Britain there is the Cheddar Gorge and the Clifton Gorge at Bristol. The Severn at Ironbridge is almost a gorge. There are many other gorges in most national parks.



Issue photocopies of the story.

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