

The River Boyne

Navan Education Centre Trail

The river Boyne has played a major part in Irish history, commerce and mythology. It is here that the fabled Salmon of Knowledge was caught and along it's banks at Oldbridge that the Battle of the Boyne was fought. Many famous historical monuments and buildings such as Newgrange, Knowth, Dowth, Slane Castle, and Dunmoe Castle were built alongside it, showing it's importance as a trade and transport route. The Boyne navigational canal from Drogheda to Navan, which runs alongside the river, began construction in 1759 and was completed by 1800. It was due to go to Trim but never made it that far. It is now owned by An Taisce. The river Boyne is now a special area of conservation, to protect the abundant wildlife that lives alongside and in it.
To complete the trail, enter at the Ramparts carpark.

Equipment
sheets, clipboard, wellies, glass jar, metre stick, string, bucket, pencil, small plastic bag



Activity 1

Walk down and turn left and walk towards the canal bridge. This is Ruxton's Bridge, named after a shareholder in the Canal company. **Look underneath. How does the bridge not collapse into the water ?**

Estimate the width of the canal and then measure by throwing a piece of string from one side to the other.
Estimate _____m Actual _____m

Activity 2

Turn right now and walk back alongside the river. **Use your bag and pick 6 types of wildflowers and 6 types of tree leaves on your way. List 4 living birds or animals that you can see from the river bank**

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Activity 3

As you walk along the path read the sign on the left hand side.

The canal was sold by Spicers to An Taisce for £____. **Why do you think it was sold for that amount?**



Activity 4

Look out for this stone along the path. **Why is there a 6 on it do you think?**

Activity 5

On the way back stop at one of the slipways to the river. Test the water quality. Fill a jar with river water. **Does it smell**
Odourless ____
Sewage ____
Fishy ____

Back in Class

1. Check out www.irishwildflowers.ie to find out the names of your flowers.
2. Draw a picture of your favourite scene along the Boyne.
3. Research the Battle of the Boyne and write a summary.

Curricular Strands

Science - Living Things, Env. Awareness and Care
Maths – Measures Geography - Natural Environments History - Early People and Ancient Societies , Transport