

Environmental Science field trip to the Teign Valley

This is one of five activities from part of a virtual field trip to the River Teign in the county of Devon, South West England. The boundary of the study area defines the river catchment; all rivers or streams within it ultimately flow into the sea through the Teign estuary. The River Teign is situated according to Figure 1.



Figure 1: The location of the River Teign in South West England.

The five activities are:

Maps and Landforms guides you through some of the more useful features of maps, equipping you with the skills necessary to understand and make the most of the information in maps.

Variation in vegetation: the heather hypothesis - using virtual data collection, you will survey heather species on a hillside and analyse the data gathered to address hypotheses linking topography, water movement, soil depth and heather species.

Sorting out soils - using a virtual soil laboratory you will investigate the physical and chemical characteristics of soil, and why soils differ horizontally and vertically. By comparing soils in a number of ecosystems in the Teign catchment, you will gain some insight into the important factors that control the physical and chemical differences in these soils.

Eating for energy: productivity of bats - an investigation into the reasons why greater horseshoe bats are so rare in Britain today. Exercises encourage you to consider the number of cattle and area of pasture needed to sustain a bat colony, the diet of bats throughout the year, and the use of agrochemicals on bat distribution.

What's in water: Freshwater invertebrates introduces you to the types of invertebrates that inhabit freshwater, and their value as indicators of river quality. You will identify some common freshwater invertebrates and examine environmental and invertebrate sampling data taken from a section of the River Teign to assess the effect of the effluent on the quality of the river water.