

By the river

Spring is in the air and it's time to get out into the open. VANESSA CLARK presents key language to talk about the activities you can enjoy by the river.

MEDIUM PLUS



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| 1. bridge [brɪdʒ] | 10. duckling ['dʌklɪŋ] |
| 2. towpath ['təʊpɑːθ] | 11. duck [dʌk] |
| 3. narrowboat ['nærəʊbəʊt] UK | 12. riverbank ['rɪvəbæŋk] |
| 4. cygnet ['sɪgnət] | 13. bench [bentʃ] |
| 5. swan [swɒn] | 14. dog walker ['dɒg ,wɔːkə] |
| 6. moorhen ['mʊəhen] | 15. gosling ['gɒzlɪŋ] |
| 7. weir [wɪə] | 16. goose [guːs] |
| 8. motorboat ['məʊtəbəʊt] | 17. reeds [riːdz] |
| 9. dinghy ['dɪŋi], rowing boat ['rəʊɪŋ bəʊt] UK, rowboat ['rəʊbəʊt] N. Am. | 18. angler ['æŋglə], fisherman ['fɪʃməŋ] |
| | 19. willow tree ['wɪləʊ triː] |

What to do by the river

There's something for everyone down by the river, all year round. Serious **hikers** can follow an official **walking route**, such as the Thames Path, from the **source** of the river all the way to the **estuary** and the **river mouth**, where it **flows** into the sea. Less ambitious walkers can take a **gentle stroll** down to the **lock** and enjoy a picnic on a **bench** on the **riverbank**. The kids can feed the **ducks, geese, swans** and other **waterfowl** — but with **bird seed**, please, not bread. In the spring, keep an eye out among the **reeds** for **nests** with **ducklings, goslings** or **cygnets**.

If you want to be out on the water, hire a **pleasure boat**. In a **rowing boat**, remember that it's harder to **row up-stream** (against the **current**) than **downstream** (with the **current**), so plan your time **accordingly**. A **motorboat** is easier, but remember to **observe** the **speed limit** and don't create unnecessary **waves**, which could disturb **anglers**.

Freshwater fishing requires a **fishing licence** and anglers must observe the **close season** in the spring, when fishing is **banned** to protect the **fish eggs** and young fish (called **fry**).

Whatever you do, don't forget to play the best river game of all: **Poohsticks**. Drop two sticks from one side of a **bridge** and see which one appears on the other side first.

Safety first!

Always take care by the river. If it rains, the riverbank can get very **muddy** and **slippery**. Apart from the risk of **drowning**, river water carries the risk of **waterborne diseases** and can contain **toxic algae**. Much of the land near rivers is **floodplain**, so it will **flood** if the river **breaks its banks**.

accordingly [ə'kɔːdɪŋli]
 ➤ hier: entsprechend

ban [bæn]
 ➤ verbieten

banks: break its ~ [bæŋks]
 ➤ über die Ufer treten

bird seed ['bɜːd siːd]
 ➤ Vogelfutter

current ['kʌrənt]
 ➤ Strömung

drowning ['draʊnɪŋ]
 ➤ Ertrinken

estuary ['estjʊəri]
 ➤ Mündungsgebiet

floodplain ['flʌdpleɪn]
 ➤ Überflutungsgebiet

freshwater fishing ['freʃ,wɔːtə ,fɪʃɪŋ]
 ➤ Süßwasserangeln

fry [fraɪ]
 ➤ Jungfisch

hiker ['haɪkə]
 ➤ Wanderer, Wanderin

lock [lɒk]
 ➤ Schleuse

observe [əb'zɜːv]
 ➤ hier: einhalten

pleasure boat ['pleʒə bəʊt]
 ➤ Freizeitboot

slippery [fraɪ]
 ➤ rutschig

source [sɔːs]
 ➤ Quelle

stroll [strɔːl]
 ➤ Spaziergang

toxic algae [ˌtɒksɪk 'ældʒiː]
 ➤ giftige Algen

waterborne ['wɔːtəbɔːn]
 ➤ durch Wasser übertragen

waterfowl ['wɔːtəfaʊl]
 ➤ Wasservogel, Wasservogel

At www.spotlight-online.de/teachers/picture-it, you can find German translations for these words, as well as our Vocabulary archive.