



Do you have what it takes to be a Waterway Hero?!



Follow Lucas, Lottie and their 'dively' dog Heidi as they learn about what it takes to become a Waterway Hero!! This resource highlights the importance of being a responsible waterway user and respecting the biodiversity value of our waterways. It is an ideal support for teaching students all about our waterways in a fun and enjoyable way. Test your knowledge and complete the activities to be awarded Waterway Hero status, with a downloadable certificate available on completion.



Taking a trip to your local waterway!



When you are visiting your local canal, river or lake it's very important to be a responsible waterway user and respect your environment. The waterways are home to a variety of plants and animals, make sure to respect their habitat and leave no trace!

To become a Waterways Hero you must:

- Protect the environment - when you are visiting your waterway be mindful of the plants and animals who live there. Don't litter and make sure not to disturb wildlife by making loud noises or disrupting their habitats.
- Help save lives - lifebuoys are vitally important for saving lives along the waterways, don't let anyone remove them.
- Wear your life jacket - make sure to wear a lifejacket when you are on Ireland's waterways.
- Don't stand close to the edge - you could fall in or damage habitats for nesting birds.
- Don't jump into the water unless you know it is safe to swim. Jumping in shallow water can cause serious injury.
- Plan your route - make sure you don't get lost by planning your trip before you visit.





Activity 1

When we leave our rubbish behind us and dispose of it incorrectly it is known as litter. Litter is not only an eyesore but it can have very harmful effects on the environment and wildlife. Litter can come in many forms e.g. plastic bags, food wrappers, drinking bottles and cans etc. The below activities will test your knowledge of littering and raise awareness of the damages it can cause to our local waterways.

1. What is litter? Can you give any examples?

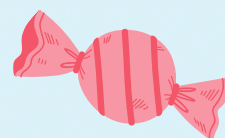
2. How can litter be correctly disposed? Can you give examples of how some products can be reused or recycled?

3. Why is litter dangerous for wildlife?

4. Why do people litter?

5. How can we reduce the amount of litter found in our communities and along our waterways?

6. If disposed of incorrectly, how long can it take plastic to decompose?



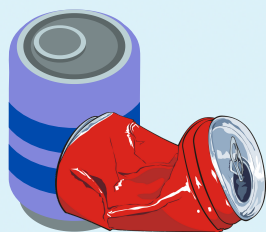
Can you answer all the questions about litter?





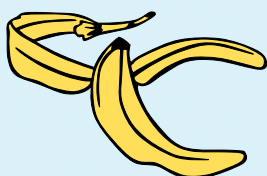
Activity 2

Litter can be very harmful to the environment, causing damage to habitats and endangering many species. Using the activity below, can you guess how long it takes for some of our rubbish to break down and decompose if its not disposed of correctly?



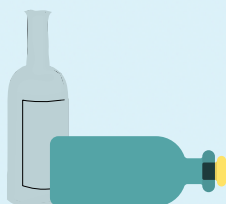
Aluminium cans

1,000,000 years



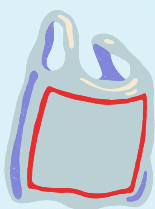
Banana peel

2 months



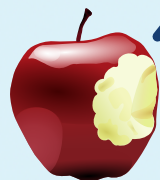
Glass bottles

Forever



Plastic bags

400-500 years



Apple core

10-20 years



Plastic bottle

Up to 2 years

Are you able to match up the litter with the breakdown time?

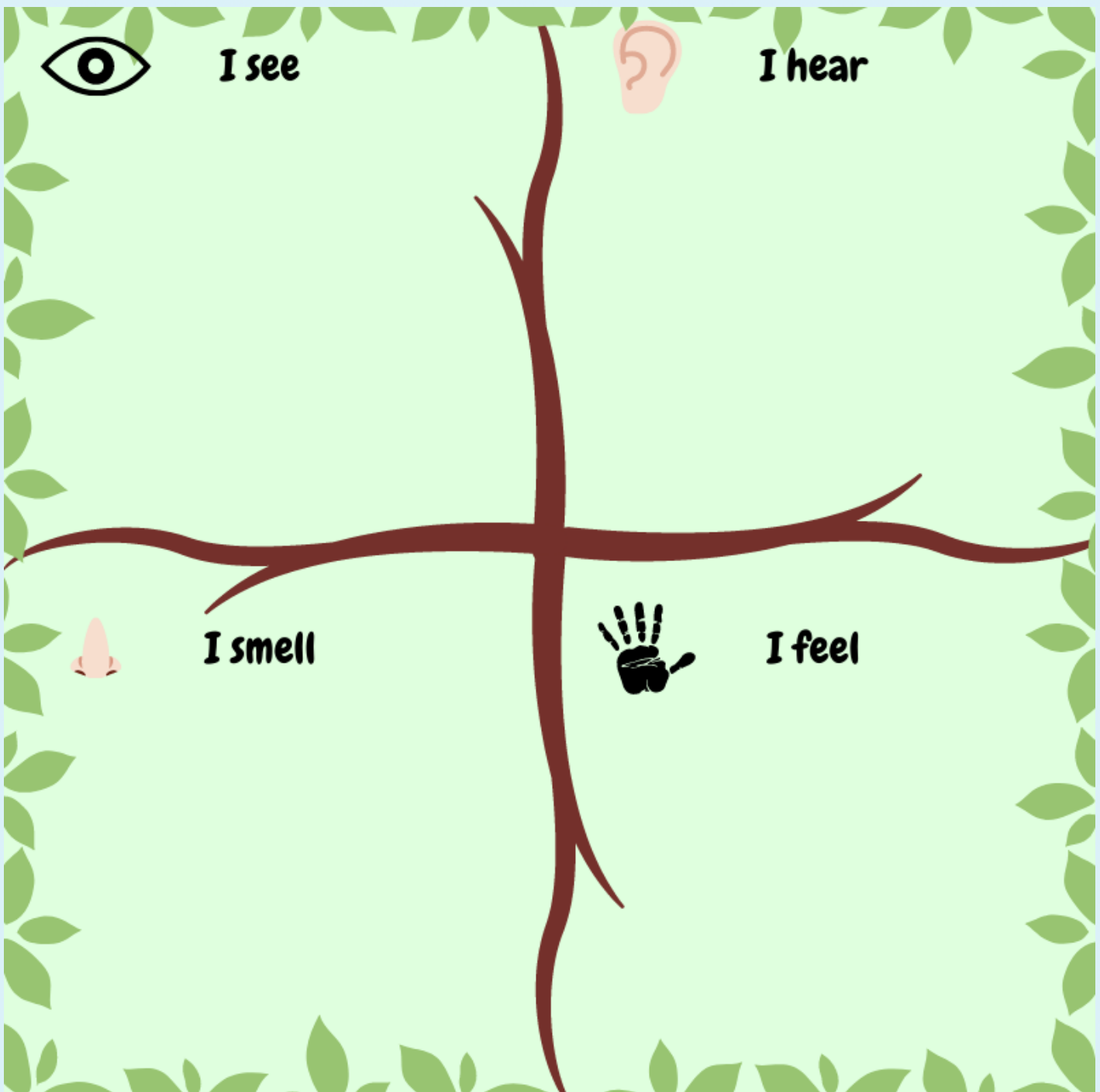




Activity 3

Now you have learnt about the importance of being a responsible waterway user and protecting the environment why not get outdoors and visit your local waterway!

On arrival to the waterway it is a good idea to create an atmosphere of calm. In order to do this ask the group to watch out for birds. Ask everybody to close their eyes and listen.... how many different bird sounds can you hear within one minute? Using the activity below, draw or write down everything you can see, hear, smell and feel when you are out on your visit.





This resource is curriculum linked as follows:

Geography

Strand: Natural Environments

Strand Unit: The Local Natural Environment

The child shall be enabled to:

- Investigate and become familiar with some natural features in the local environment
- Increase understanding on how to respect your environment and the safety aspects which should be followed when visiting Irish Waterways.

Place

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- How place influences the nature of life

Science

Strand: Living things

Strand unit: Plant and animal life

The child shall be enabled to:

- Observe, identify and examine the animals and plants that live in local habitats and environments

KS2

Interdependence:

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- How living things rely on each other within the natural world

Answer guide

Activity 1

Q6: Up to 1,000,000 years

Activity 2

Aluminium Cans	400-500 years
Banana Peel	Up to 2 years
Glass bottles	Forever
Plastic bags	10 to 20 years
Apple core	2 months
Plastic bottle	1,000,000 years

WATERWAY HERO!



This award goes to

