

CONTENTS

Introductions	2
Meet the River	3
Nature Notes	4
Chapter 1: The Rolling River	5
Rocky Starts	11
Grass along the River	12
Nature Notes	13
Chapter 2: Fast Flows	14
Animals Past	19
Fishing Eagles	20
Nature Notes	21
Chapter 3: Slow Flows	22
When Nighttime Comes	27
River Giant	28
Nature Notes	29
Chapter 4: The Riverbank	30
Plants Past	34
Slug along the River	35
Nature Notes	36
Chapter 5: River Future	37
People and Ecosystems	38
Nature Notes	40
Glossary	43
Index	46

Introductions



From left to right, Steve, Anne and Rocky meet their leader, Deb.

Meet Steve, Anne and Rocky.

They are spending a week at Kingfisher Camp.

They like to **explore** outdoors with their camp leader, Deb. They have fun being nature detectives. Like all detectives, they keep notes about what they discover. Sometimes they make drawings, too.

A **river** near Kingfisher Camp is one place the campers love to explore. Many kinds of plants grow along it. Animals from **snails** to **salmon** live in the river. On each visit, the campers discover something new.



MEET THE RIVER



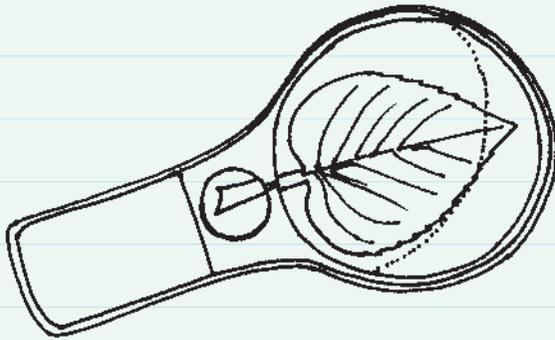
A river is a body of water flowing through a large **channel**. It forms an **ecosystem**, a place with living parts—plants and animals—and non-living parts, such as water, light, sand and gravel. Each of these parts affects other parts of the ecosystem. Each is important to a healthy river.

There are different kinds of rivers. Some are deep; others are shallow. Some are fast; others are slow. Sometimes, parts of one river are shallow and fast, while other parts are deep and slow. Different kinds of plants and animals live in different kinds—or parts—of rivers.

Nature Notes

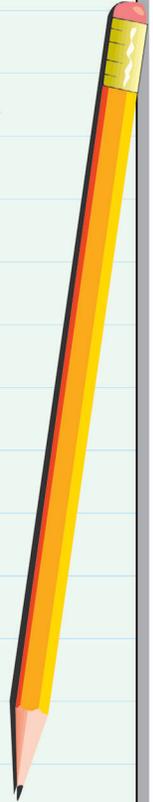
WHAT TO WATCH FOR

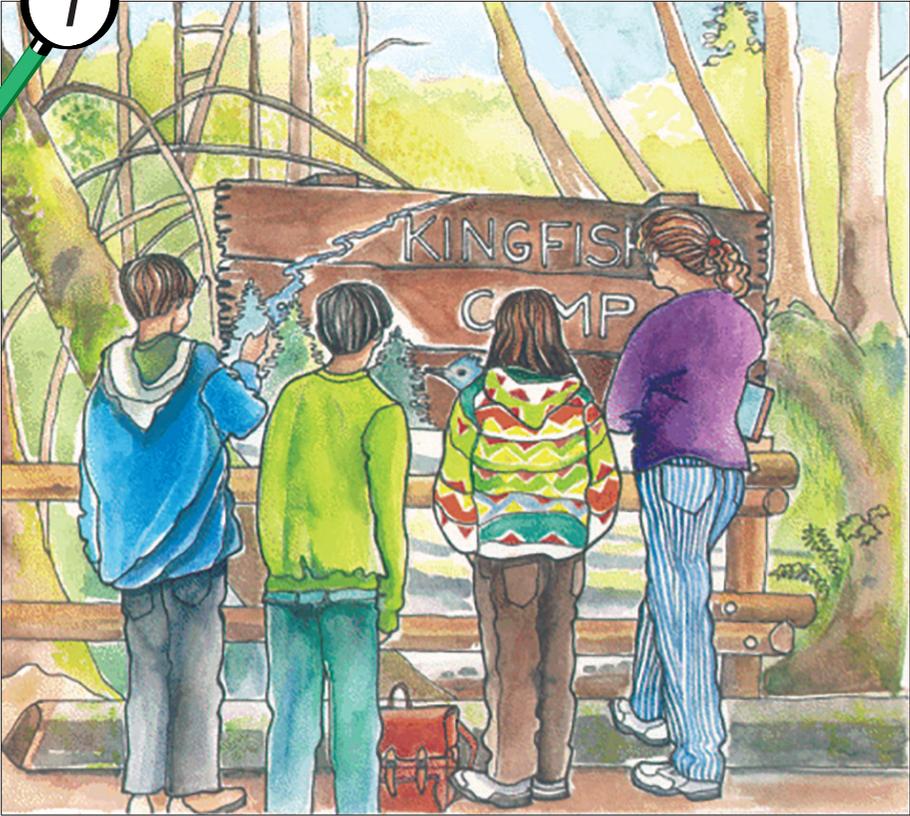
1. *What kinds of plants live along the river?*
2. *How do plants live and grow along the river?*
3. *What kinds of animals live along the river?*
4. *How do animals live and find food along the river?*
5. *What are non-living parts of a river?*



THINGS TO CHECK LATER

1. *What books about rivers does the library have?*
2. *Who can tell us about rivers?*





On the first day of camp, Deb suggested a hike through the woods to the river. Steve and Anne were ready to go. Rocky raced back to his tent.

"Wait up while I grab my stuff," he yelled. "We might find some great rocks."

"He's always collecting rocks," laughed Steve. "That's why everyone calls him Rocky. I don't even know his real name." The campers headed off down a path when Rocky returned. A hammer, knife and magnifying glass clinked together in his backpack as he walked.



“Wow! The water is much deeper this year,” said Anne, when the campers reached the **riverbank**.

“Wider, too,” said Steve. “Some of the trees are standing right in the water.”

“It snowed so much last winter and rained so much this spring,” explained Deb. “Melting snow and ice in the mountain feed this river, and heavy rain feeds it more.”

“Check that out,” said Rocky, pointing to the steep bank on the far side of the river. “The water has washed away some soil. You can see tree roots along the edge of the bank.”

“Imagine what would have happened if no trees grew there,” said Deb. “Their roots wrap around soil, gravel and rocks to anchor the tree, and take in **nutrients** and water. They also help hold the riverbank in place.”