

**Key Subjects: Geography**

**Venue: Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre**

**Programme Length: 2 hours**

## SESSION AIM

To provide a unique opportunity to explore the Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre and compare and contrast the regenerated landscape with the surrounding area, responding creatively to a geographical place. To understand how the venue is creating a lasting legacy for the region after the London 2012 Games, taking into account the needs of different stakeholder groups, evaluating the venue from their point of view and exploring the challenges and potential impact involved in developing this impressive venue.

## ACTIVITIES

Welcome and introduction to the programme

- ❖ Safety talk- including safety sack contents and appropriate behaviour
- ❖ Summary of programme
- ❖ Distribution of equipment (project booklet, clipboard and pencil)

Lee Valley WhiteWater tour

- ❖ Make observations of Lee Valley WhiteWater centre taking notes on the following topics:
  - Development of the Lee Valley White Water Centre
  - London 2012 Olympics canoe slalom event
  - White Water the legacy
  - The environmental impact of White Water
- ❖ Consider the location of Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre and identify key differences with the surrounding area
- ❖ Respond creatively to express what Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre is like as a geographical place
- ❖ create a short video on one of the topic titles listed above

**SAFETY** All activities and sites are risk assessed. All Lee Valley Regional Park teaching staff carry mobile phones and first aid kits. Groups should follow their ratio guidelines. We provide a copy of our safety rules for teachers to discuss with students prior to visit. Further H&S information is available at [visitlee valley.org.uk/education](http://visitlee valley.org.uk/education)

**ASSESSMENT** Open-ended questioning, ongoing peer discussion, sharing experiences, investigating results, predictions and plenary

**CLOTHING AND BAGS** Appropriate outdoor clothing e.g. waterproofs, suitable footwear, sun cream and hat. It is recommended that hands free bags are brought to carry lunch etc.

**BEHAVIOUR** Teachers are responsible for good behaviour throughout their visit including lunchtime supervision.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Most students will be able to:

- ❖ Explain the meaning of 'legacy' and 'sustainability'
- ❖ Use their geographical vocabulary to describe Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre and contrast it with the surrounding area
- ❖ Make observations and recordings of a geographical place
- ❖ Express their ideas verbally in creative forms
- ❖ Empathise with the needs to different stakeholders and explain their needs in geographical terms
- ❖ Understand the environmental impact of creating a world class venue in a protected area

**RESOURCES** All required resources and equipment are provided.

**POST VISIT** Pupils can send their trip inspired letters, poems, pictures and environmental pledges to [youthandschools@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:youthandschools@leevalleypark.org.uk) A selection will be displayed online at [visitlee valley.org.uk/education](http://visitlee valley.org.uk/education)

**WASTE AND RECYCLING** Please see our website regarding lunch waste and our recycling policies.

## IDEAS FOR PREPARATION WORK

### Geography

Find the River Lee on an Ordnance Survey map or online mapping. Interpret the map to find out about the shape of the lower Lee Valley and identify lower stage river features. Identify the main areas and landscapes that make up Lee Valley Regional Park and contrast these with urban land use in the surrounding area.

Find Lee Valley WhiteWater centre on OS mapping and interpret the map to explore the surrounding area, including using older maps to identify changes over time.

Research past economic activity in the area. The Lee Valley has been the site of gunpowder, munitions and weapons production, gravel extraction and of rail, car and aeronautical manufacturing. What made the area a good place for these activities to take place? Challenge students to identify the natural resources or other features that made the Lee Valley a suitable location.

Ask students to explain how an area can fall into disuse as changes occur in how people settle in and use a landscape. What changes do they think might have occurred in and around the Lee Valley?

Discuss the term 'regeneration' and 'legacy'. Research the 2012 Olympic games canoe slalom event, who took part? What were the results? Look at the impact on local people and businesses, how might their lives be affected by the Lee Valley WhiteWater centre?

## IDEAS FOR FOLLOW- UP WORK

### Students can:

- ❖ Develop promotional ideas for Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre and create sample materials to present or display.
- ❖ Write a more detailed report, which they could present as written work or a video, describing how Lee Valley WhiteWater Centre meets the needs of different stakeholder groups and explaining how it's supporting a lasting legacy after the London 2012 Games.
- ❖ Research into the biodiversity of the Lee Valley focusing on the key species that could be affected by changes in habitat

To book or discuss this programme please contact the Youth and Schools Service on  
**03000 030 618** or email [youthandschools@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:youthandschools@leevalleypark.org.uk)