



Wessex
Rivers Trust



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Be prepared!

Wear old clothes and wellies
- don't go in barefoot!

Cover all open cuts and scratches with
waterproof plasters

Check you have permission to access the
river and the water levels are low

Check your governing body's guidelines
for ratios for teaching by water

Stay out of fast currents

Wash your hands before
eating or drinking

How to River Dip

A guide for Teachers
and Group Leaders

You will need:

- Fine mesh net
- White tray
- White bucket
- White spoons
- Sorting tray and underlay
- Identification guide
- Small net
- Magnifying glass
- Bug pot
- Wellies
- First aid kit
- Throwline



Visit <https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/riverwildlifeinvestigators.html>
for our 'How to' video on river dipping



- Set up the equipment a safe distance from the river edge
- Carefully put a small amount of river water into each white tray and sorting tray - the bucket is useful for this
- Demonstrate to the group how to take a kick sample:
 - place the net flat on the river bed, making sure the net opening is facing upstream and the water is flowing through the net
 - leave a gap of about a foot's length in front of the net opening, then disturb the gravel or sediment on the river bed with your feet
 - try not to kick too many big stones into the net, as these may harm the river life
- Empty the net and its contents into the white tray by turning it over and gently pushing the net inside out
- Look carefully! Some creatures will be very small
- Have a go at identifying everything using the identification guides, you could take photos and the group could make notes and draw their favourite
- When you've finished, carefully return everything to the river by gently emptying the white trays and sample trays, holding them low over the water
- Make sure the equipment is rinsed in the river water so it is returned clean and creature free
- Remind the group to wash their hands before eating or drinking - running water and soap is best
- For more river resources visit:

<https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/education.html>



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