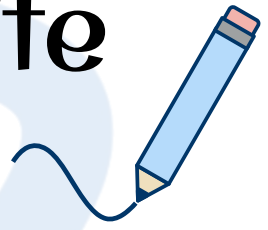


# English Activity: Write Your Own Story



Lots of amazing old objects have been found in the rivers in County Durham. Most of the time, it is a mystery to us how they found their way into the rivers. Now it's time for you to choose an object and write your own story about what happened. Here are some things to think about.

## Your Object

- What is your object?
- What does it look like?
- What do you think it feels like?
- Do you think it is heavy?
- What do you think it does?
- Why did its owner have it? Was it important to them?  
How do they feel about it?



**For a challenge, does your character have to be the person who owned the object? Could it be the object itself?**

## Your Character

- Who owned the object?
- What is their name?
- Do they have a job?
- What do they look like?
- What might they say?
- Why were they by the river?

You could try drawing your character and making notes about them.

**For a challenge, think about how you want the person reading to feel. What words or writing tools can you use to help them feel that way?**

## Your Setting

- Where and when is this happening? Is it at Piercebridge in Roman times? Is it in Durham City in Medieval times?
- What does it look, sound and smell like by the river?
- What kind of weather is it? Is it very hot, or cold, or windy?

**If you want to, you could write your story like a diary entry! Think about how a diary entry might be different from other pieces of writing.**

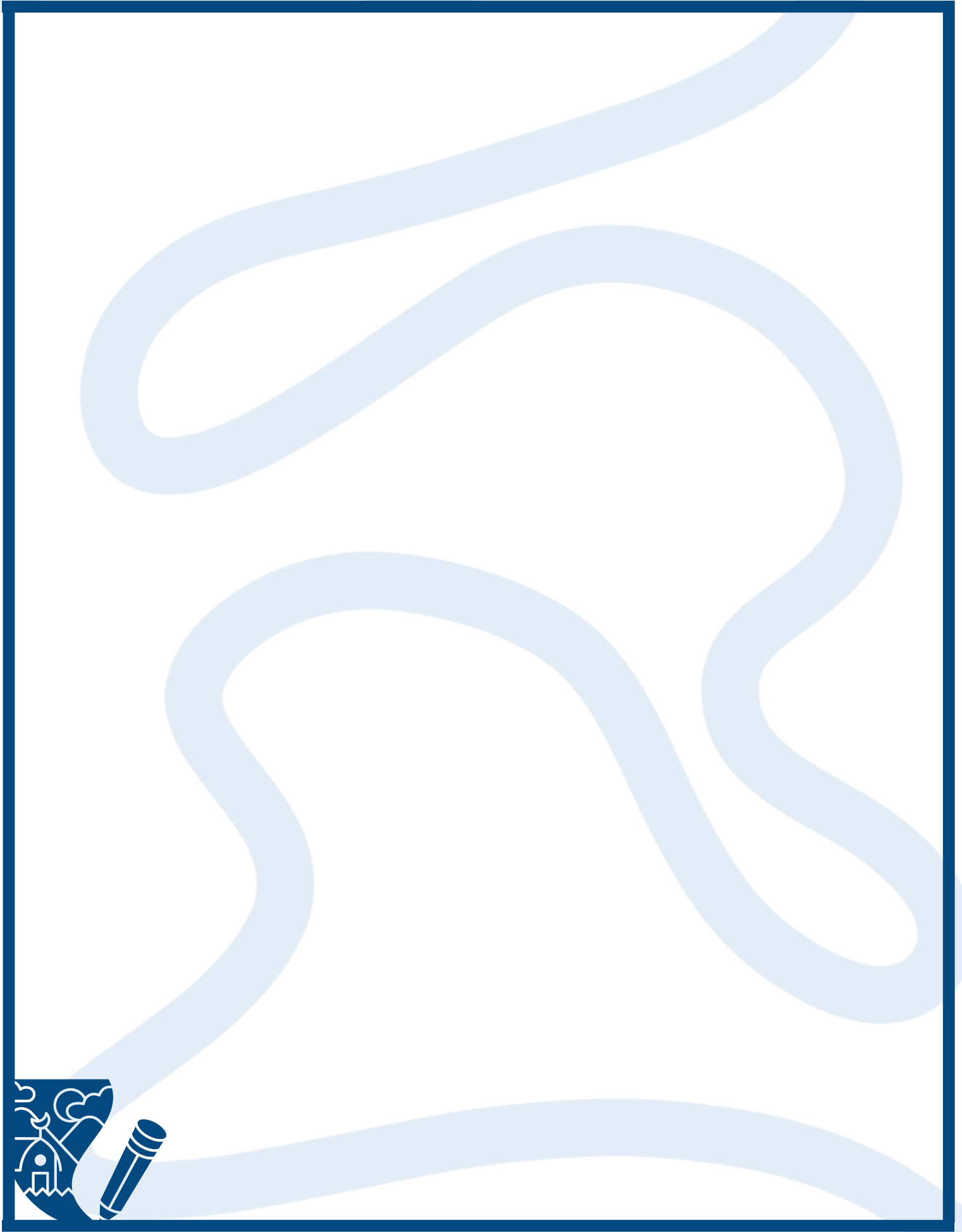
## Your Plot

- How did your object end up in the river? Was it thrown in on purpose? Was it lost? Was it a gift for the gods?
- How did your character feel about the object being in the river?

## Things to Think About

- Are you going to write in the first-person or third-person?
- Are you going to write in the past or present tense?
- How will you start? You could use 'Once upon a time..', 'A long time ago..', 'The weather by the river was..' or 'You won't believe what happened today!' or make up your own!

Use the space below to plan your story. You could do drawings of your object or characters, a story board, bullet points or you could practise writing out some sentences. Show all of your ideas and plans below for your writing.



Now it's time to write your story. Think about all of the writing tools you know and what vocabulary and grammar you want to use.

For an extra challenge, think about how you can create mood and atmosphere in your story. You should also think about how you can use your writing tools to make your writing flow well, and show important themes and feelings across all of your paragraphs.

Once you've written your story, read it over and fix any grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes. Then take a different coloured pen and make some notes alongside your writing about how you could improve it to make it clearer and more effective. What could you have done differently?

After you've done that, swap with a classmate and read over their writing too. See if you can suggest any ways for them to improve their writing. Was there something you didn't understand? Was there a different word or writing tool your peer could have used that might have made their writing more effective? Don't forget to tell them what they did well, and what you enjoyed about their story as well!

Your final task is to read out or perform your writing in front of the class or in a group. Try to make it interesting and make sure the meaning of your story is clear to everybody who is watching. You can do this by thinking about:

- Volume of your voice
- The tone of your voice
- Movement and actions

