Water observation activity sheet

1. Look at the area around the waterway. How would you describe it?

2. Are humans interacting with the water? How?

3. What trees or plants do you notice around the waterway? Are there many, a few, none? Is the water shaded by trees?

4. What animals (birds, fish, mammals, insects etc.) do you notice in or near the water? Write down any animals you notice.

5. Are there any logs, piles of branches or holes in the bank that could provide shelter for animals?

6. Does the bank of the waterway look solid, or is it wearing away and unstable (eroded)?

7. Are the banks of the waterway "hardened", meaning the natural shoreline has been replaced by large rocks or concrete walls?

8. Is the water flowing or still? Is there other visible movement of water (rapids, currents etc.)?

9. Looking directly at the water, what colour is it? Is it clear, cloudy or somewhere in between?

10. Is there visible litter in the water? (e.g., plastic or other trash)

11. How does the water smell? (from a distance and up close, if possible)

12. What is the temperature of the water, if it's possible to tell? (cool, warm, hot)

13. What are your general observations and conclusions about the appearance and health of the waterway at this spot?

Story of the waterway activity sheet

Name and location of the waterway:

Who were the original Indigenous caretakers of this land and waterway?

Is this waterway connected to any traditional stories?

What changes, if any, have humans made to the waterway and its surroundings since colonization?

What has been the impact of these changes on the water and the ecosystems around it?

What personal memories do people in the community have of this waterway and any changes? (For example, changes to fish populations, swimming access, etc.)

How is the waterway responding to broader challenges? (e.g., climate change, pollution)

What concerns does the local community have about the health of the waterway?

How are these concerns being addressed?

If the waterway is considered healthy, how has its health been protected?

Which people, communities or organizations currently care for the waterway?