

Discovering Leavenworth's Waterways

Grade Level: Primary (K–3)

Subject: Social Studies / Science

Duration: 30–40 minutes

Objective –learn some key waterways in Leavenworth

- Students will learn the names of the major waterways in Leavenworth, WA.
- Students will identify rivers and creeks on a simple map.
- Students will understand how waterways are important for people, animals, and plants.

Key Waterways in Leavenworth

- **Wenatchee River** – the big river that flows right through Leavenworth.
- **Icicle Creek** – a smaller creek that joins the Wenatchee River near town.
- **Chiwaukum Creek** – flows into Icicle Creek nearby.
- **Peshastin Creek** – another creek that flows into the Wenatchee River just east of Leavenworth.

Materials

- Large map of Leavenworth area (teacher can project or print simple map outline).
- Blue crayons/markers.
- Small paper “fish” cutouts or stickers.
- Picture cards showing river animals (salmon, ducks, beavers).
- Storybook style intro: “*A River Runs Through Leavenworth*” (teacher-made short narrative).

Lesson Steps

1. Hook (5 min)

Tell a short story:

“Tully the Goldendoodle and Lambkin the lamb wanted to cool off on a hot day. They followed the sound of rushing water and found the Wenatchee River. But soon, they noticed smaller creeks flowing into it, like helpers bringing water to the big river.”

Show children a photo of the Wenatchee River and Icicle Creek. Ask:

- “What do you see in the picture?”
- “Where do you think the water is going?”

2. Teach (10 min)

- Show the map of Leavenworth.
- Point to the **Wenatchee River** – trace it with your finger.
- Show where **Icicle Creek** flows in.
- Briefly mention Chiwaukum and Peshastin creeks as other water “helpers.”
- Explain why rivers are important: fish live in them, animals drink from them, and people use them for fun like rafting and fishing.

3. Activity (15 min)

- Hand each student a copy of the map (simplified outline).
- Students color the rivers and creeks **blue**.
- Have them place a paper “fish” or sticker in the Wenatchee River.
- Extension: Match animal picture cards to the waterway (e.g., salmon in Wenatchee River, ducks in Icicle Creek).

4. Wrap-Up & Review (5 min)

Ask students:

- “What is the big river in Leavenworth called?” (Wenatchee River)
- “What creek joins it near town?” (Icicle Creek)
- “Why are rivers and creeks important?”

Celebrate by saying:

“Now you are Leavenworth River Explorers!” and give a small paper badge or stamp.

Assessment

- Students correctly color and label Wenatchee River and Icicle Creek on the map.
- Students can answer at least one reason waterways are important.

Waterways of Leavenworth, WA



