

THE WORLD AROUND US — GEOGRAPHY/SCIENCE · P4-P5

# The River Lagan

P4-P5

## River Lagan

1

### Source and course

Rises in Slieve Croob hills, County Down. Flows north-east 80km through Dromore, Lisburn, and Belfast to Belfast Lough.

2

### Belfast Lough

Sea inlet where the Lagan meets the Irish Sea. The sheltered deep water made Belfast a major port and shipbuilding centre.

3

### The Lagan Canal

Built 1763. Connected Belfast to Lough Neagh — allowing coal and limestone to Belfast, linen to be exported.

4

### Pollution history

20th century industrial growth heavily polluted the Lagan. By the 1980s, biologically almost dead in Belfast stretches.

5

### Environmental improvement

Laganside Corporation transformed the riverbank and improved water quality. Salmon have returned after 100 years absence.

6

### Wildlife today

Atlantic salmon (spawning again). Brown trout. Kingfishers. Herons. Otters spotted. Reflects decades of investment.



7

**Lagan Valley Regional Park**

14km linear park from Belfast to Lisburn. Walking, cycling, wildlife. Most accessible green space for Belfast residents.

