

Video summary	Before watching the video	During the video
<p>The water privatisation in 1989 involved the transfer of the provision of water and wastewater services in England and Wales from the state to the private sector through the sale of the ten regional water authorities.</p> <p>The water companies charge for and provide a service that is covered by a regulatory framework set up with the aim of ensuring fair prices and high standards.</p> <p>The Office for Water Services (OFWAT) act as the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sectors.</p> <p>The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) sets the overall water and sewerage policy framework in England, while the Welsh Government does this in Wales. Natural Resources Wales are the environmental regulator of the water and sewerage sector in Wales, and the Environment Agency carry out this regulation in England.</p> <p>Things are different in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Scottish Water provides water and sewerage services across Scotland and is accountable to the public through the Scottish Government. They are regulated by The Water Industry Commission for Scotland. Northern Ireland Water is a Government Owned Company set up in April 2007 to provide the water and sewerage services.</p>	<p>Establish what students know about the term ‘privatisation’. Create a definition for this and other terms as a class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company</li> <li>• Ideological</li> <li>• Privatisation</li> <li>• Shares</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• OFWAT</li> </ul> <p>Ask students to watch the film and be prepared to explain why water was privatised and when.</p>	<p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do you think members of the public might want to buy shares in the privatised water companies?</li> <li>• Why do you think foreign investors were keen to invest in our water industries?</li> <li>• What is the purpose of organisations like the Environment Agency and OFWAT?</li> </ul>

### After watching

- Discuss students' views on the privatisation of water assets in England and Wales.
- It is claimed that privatisation has improved water quality since the 1980s. Can students find evidence to support or rebut this claim? What do current trends show for England Wales?
- How does this compare with water quality in Scotland and Northern Ireland? Ask students to evaluate different sources of information and extract relevant and reliable evidence.

Curriculum notes	Where next?	Links
<p>All these short clips build on students' understanding of human and environmental interactions and provide opportunities to practice geographical skills such as enquiry, mapping and fieldwork.</p> <p>At KS3, students can learn more about how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate. At KS4, the film supports understanding about fluvial environments, flooding hazards and climate change, environmental management and fieldwork investigation.</p> <p>This video develops understanding of economic activity and natural resources (KS3), and supports students in researching and debating ethical issues in geography (KS4).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify your own local water company and carry out an enquiry to establish and map the area they cover, naming some of the key waterways.</li> <li>• Ask students to investigate the water company's record of managing water safely and sustainably. Can they identify some pros and cons of their water management programme and make recommendations?</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">KS3: Rivers and Water</a>  <a href="#">GCSE: River landscapes in the UK</a>  <a href="#">GCSE: River environments</a>  <a href="#">GCSE: Rivers</a>  <a href="#">GCSE Geography - exam practice</a>  <a href="#">National 4: Rivers</a>  <a href="#">National 5: Rivers and valleys</a>  <a href="#">Bitesize Careers: Jobs that use Geography</a></p>