

## THINKING KNIFE

**THINKING SKILL:** enquiry  
**SUBJECT LINK:** geography  
**ORGANISATION:** individual  
**RESOURCES:** a pencil and paper for each child (it would be useful to do the first example on an interactive whiteboard)



### WHAT TO DO

- Explain that a thinking knife is a great thing to have. It's like a real knife, but instead of cutting things, it cuts up ideas!
- Use a thinking knife to demonstrate cutting an idea linked to geography into smaller bits, leaving the main points of the idea. For example: Traffic congestion can affect the environment.
- Cut away 'can affect' (not the key idea) to leave Traffic congestion/the environment.
- Cut up what's left: Traffic/congestion/environment.
- Explain that these are the key concepts from the statement.

### NOW TRY THIS

1. Ask the children to use a thinking knife on some of these:

- The three longest rivers in the UK are the Severn, the Thames and the Trent.*
- The largest mountain range in Europe is the Alps.*
- Water and wind can change the landscape by erosion.*
- Places can change when more people move to live there.*
- We can improve our environment by recycling and reusing waste.*

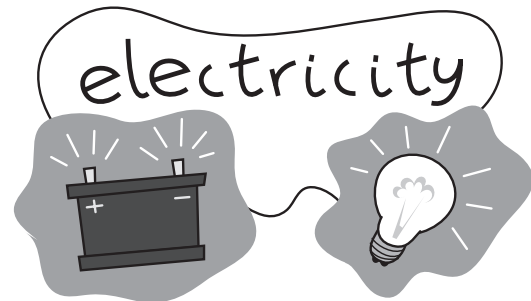
2. Discuss why they sliced in certain places.

## WORDY SCIENCE

**THINKING SKILL:** creative thinking  
**SUBJECT LINK:** science  
**ORGANISATION:** individual  
**RESOURCES:** words relating to science, written on the board: electricity, force, teeth, light, air, water, lungs, heart, flower, ice, steam, sound, the Sun

### WHAT TO DO

- Look at the words on the board; they are all related to science.
- Choose one of the words and copy it down. Add things to it to help you understand more about it. Don't change the letters, but use them in a picture of something to do with that bit of science.
- Here's an example, on electricity:



## IMAGINARY ANIMALS

**THINKING SKILL:** information processing  
**SUBJECT LINK:** science  
**ORGANISATION:** whole class, individuals  
**RESOURCES:** picture of, or ideally a real, animal

### WHAT TO DO

- Look closely at this animal.
- Now close your eyes. Try to picture it in your mind.
- Open your eyes and take another look.
- Close your eyes. Imagine it with an extra head, extra leg, a different colour, how would it sound if it spoke, a different type of skin... and so on.
- Now imagine it as it is normally.
- Open your eyes and draw what you imagined.

