

**Extension: Water - a matter of taste or a taste of matter?
Is all water the same?**

From Elizabeth, Earthlearningidea team, UK



Hot springs in Bath, UK
Photos by Prof. Maurice Tucker

The three springs that emerge at 45 - 46°C beneath and adjacent to the Roman Bath in the centre of Bath Spa, UK, are unique in the British Isles. The water for the springs is hosted in the Carboniferous Limestone in a structural setting that allows water to descend to sufficient depth for it to be heated by the geothermal gradient, and then return to the surface without a significant fall in temperature. Those at Bath reach the surface on the floodplain of the River Avon via 'spring pipes', collapse structures that extend down through Jurassic and Triassic rocks to the concealed Carboniferous Limestone. The source of the Bath springs is known from geochemical studies to be rain that fell several thousand years ago and descended to depths of at least 2500m on its path to the hot springs.