



Rivers Knowledge Organiser

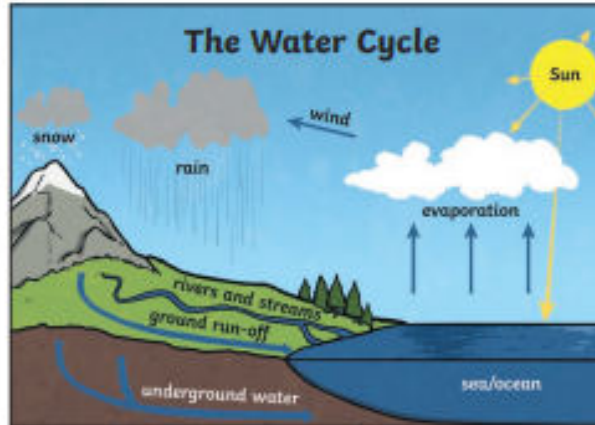
Geography Focus

Year 6

Autumn 1

Key Vocabulary

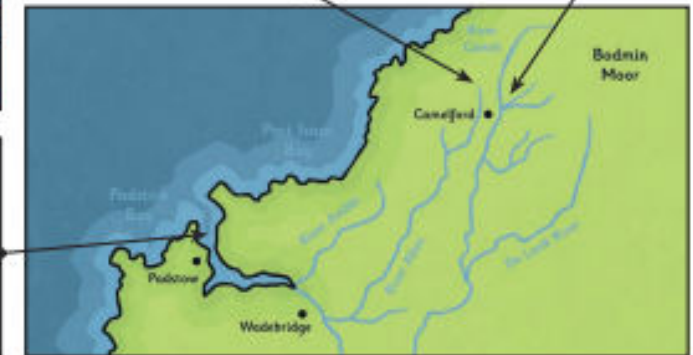
channel	The course in the ground that a river or water flows through.
dam	A barrier built to hold back water.
deposition/ deposit	When rocks and other materials that have been eroded are dropped off further along the river.
discharge	The amount of water flowing along a river per second.
erosion	Rocks and other river materials are picked up by the water and moved to another place along the river.
mouth	The point where a river joins the sea.
source	The place where a river begins.
tidal bore	A strong tide from the coast that pushes the river against the current causing waves along the river.
tributaries	Rivers that join up with another river.
valley	A long ditch in the earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains.



Some rivers join up with other rivers (**tributaries**). The point where they meet is called a confluence.

The **source** of most rivers is on high ground or in the mountains.

Rivers in England, at their **mouth**, will flow into either the: North Sea, Irish Sea, English **Channel** or Atlantic Ocean.



The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.



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Meander - a curve in the river



Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.

How Do We Use Rivers?

Leisure e.g. fishing	+	Controlled population of fish
	-	May leave litter and pollute the water
Industry e.g. factories	+	Sections of rivers maintained
	-	Chemicals pollute the water and habitats
Tourism e.g. walking routes	+	Conservation and education about local wildlife
	-	Too many people near wildlife habitats

What should I already know?

- Some locations of rivers in our country
- The difference between human and physical features
- Continents of the world
- Some uses and effects of rivers

Key Information Learnt by the End of the Topic

- I can identify the major rivers in the World and locate them on a map
- I know some of the major rivers in the UK and can locate them on a map
- I can recognise the physical features of a river
- I understand how a river changes over time
- I know the impact a river can have on a surrounding area, both using physical and human characteristics
- I know how rivers are formed and where the source of a river is located
- I understand how the water cycle contributes to the development of a river
- I know how rivers impact economic activity, including trade links
- I can recognise a river on a variety of maps, including topographical, OS and satellite images