



Knowledge Organiser	Subject: Geography	Topic: Investigating Rivers	Year: 5
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Key Knowledge

A river is a path that water takes as it flows downhill, normally towards another river, a lake, sea or ocean. Rivers come in many different shapes and sizes and often join together to make larger rivers. As rivers are a ready source of water, lots of plants and animals live near them. Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers. In addition to drinking and bathing, rivers were also important waterways for trade. Rivers can flood, at which point they become exceptionally dangerous and can cause widespread damage in the local communities.

Important Facts:

Water always flows downhill. This is important for understanding how rivers form and how they contribute to the water cycle. Rivers are fresh water – oceans are salt water. When rivers are flowing quickly, they take bits of earth (sediment) off banks, downstream called erosion. When there has been too much rainfall, rivers may overflow or ‘burst their banks’, causing significant flooding. Silt and sediment are materials carried by running water. Sometimes rivers carry so much silt and sediment, they can form new land, called a Delta.

Notable Rivers: Nile, Thames, Amazon, Mississippi, Yangtze
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7w8pg8#zhtybqt>

Being a Geographer/Key Skills Developed

A good geographer in Key Stage 2 will be able to:

- use more detailed maps and discuss human and physical characteristics of regions
- They will understand climate zones, mountains, volcanoes, the water cycle, rivers, types of settlement and natural resources
- They will use ICT, different types of maps, atlases, more complex compass directions, aerial photographs, as well as fieldwork and observational skills.

Multi-Disciplinary Skills

Environmental knowledge will be closely linked to science. A good geographer will be able to demonstrate an awareness of their physical and human world, and an understanding of environmental management and sustainability, this links closely to PSHE. They will understand the importance of their place within the world and the impact they may have through their actions, this links to Eco-schools, PSHE, Science and RE. The skills of cause and effect, impact and change, empathy and compassion will also be developed. Mapping skills will link closely to the use of co-ordinates in maths, as well as grid references in OS maps.

Investigating Rivers will incorporate Science, habitats and the water cycle, PSHE (Why people move), eco-schools and history – the impact on society of the movement of people, trade, as well as the meaning behind place names.

Key Concepts

Place A construct that is defined in terms of what it is like, what happens there and how and why it is changing.

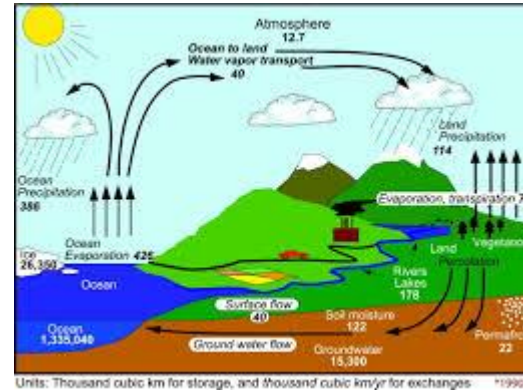
Space The location of points, features or regions in absolute and /or relative terms and the relationships, flows and patterns that connect and / or define them.

Environment The ‘zoom lens’ that enables us to view places from global to local levels.

Why are rivers so important?



Key Vocabulary	
Source	The beginning of the river, usually found in the hills or mountains. A river can have more than one source.
Mouth	Here, the river flows into another body of water. The mouth could be where the river meets the sea, a lake or a larger body of water
Tributary	This is a stream or river flowing into a larger river. This helps the river to grow in size.
Confluence	The junction of two rivers.
Channel	This is the path a river takes.
Meander	A meander is a bend in the river.
Erosion	Erosion is the gradual destruction or wearing away of something. It is where the force of the water rubs away at the banks of the river and on the river bed.
Deposition	Materials transported by the river are deposited (dropped off) usually at the mouth or estuary of a river.



Linking Thinking Across Our Learning Journey

Early Years	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
All About Me – To begin to identify similarities and differences. Positional Language. Local Walk.	Where do I live? Looking at the local environment and understanding the human impact of our locality.	Who Lives Here? To understand the different environments in the World and how people survive?	Investigating Coasts/Where does our food come from? Impact of location on human and physical features/survival.	Settlements To understand how land use/access to water impacts human geography.	Rivers	Africa The human and physical aspects and impacts of Africa.