

Rivers

Knowledge Planner










What should I already know?

- The seven continents, five oceans and surrounding seas of the United Kingdom.
- The names of some key rivers around the world including the Thames and the Nile.
- How sedimentary rocks are formed.

Key Vocabulary

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delta	an area of low land where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea
deposition	when a substance has been left somewhere as a result of a process erosion the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil in a particular area by rivers, the sea, or the weather
estuary	the wide part of a river where it joins the sea like a large area of fresh water, surrounded by land
water cycle	the circulation of the earth's water
source	where something comes from spring a natural outflow of ground water
meander	a large bend in a river mouth where a river flows into the sea
stream	a small narrow river tributary a stream or river that flows into a larger one
waterfall	a place where water flows over the edge of a steep, high cliff in hills or mountains, and falls into a pool below
ocean	one of the five very large areas of salt water on the Earth's surface.

Locate the Major Rivers of the World

River Thames 	River Danube 	River Nile 
The Ganges 	The Amazon 	The Murray 
River Dart 	Mississippi River 	River Exe 

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Use the index in atlases to find oceans, seas and rivers.
- Label maps to show where oceans, seas, lakes and rivers can be located.
- Describe the life of a river using the correct terminology.
- Go on a tour of a river - can you notice the different features of a river? Sketch the river including the features you can see.
- Describe how oxbow lakes are formed because of erosion and deposition.
- Explain how erosion and deposition have an effect on meanders and deltas.

How does the water cycle work?

Evaporation:

- The Sun causes the water from the Earth to evaporate.
- This water evaporates from seas, lakes, streams and even puddles.
- When it evaporates, water turns into water vapour.

Condensation:

- As the water vapour rises, it cools down.
- As it cools down, condensation happens and water vapour condenses to small droplets of water.
- Clouds are made from a mix of dry air and small droplets of water.

Precipitation:

- As condensation continues to happen, more droplets of water vapour are formed.
- When the droplets become heavy and large enough, they fall back to the Earth's surface in the form of rain or snow.

Runoff and Transpiration:

- As precipitation happens in the form of rain or snow falling back to Earth, water is absorbed into the soil.
- This water is used by plants to grow - when water from plant leaves evaporates back into the atmosphere, this is called transpiration.
- Water may also run off and enter oceans, seas and rivers.
- Water then evaporates and the water cycle begins again!



A River from Source to Mouth

- Follow the River Exe from source to mouth, looking at the different features and how the river is used.

