



Aldryngton Primary School Knowledge Organiser: How are rivers formed?

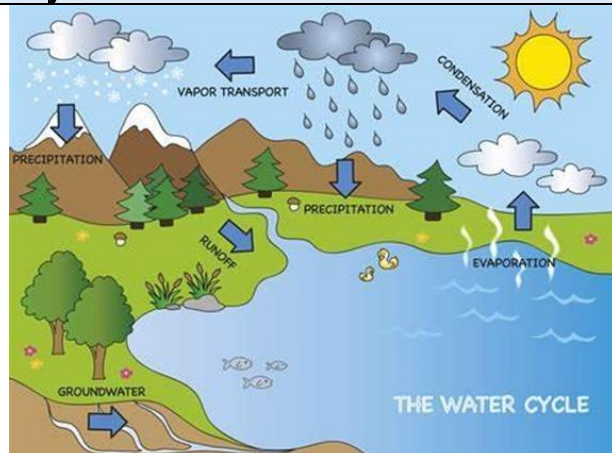
A topic looking at the location of the main rivers in the UK and learning about the features of a river system.



Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
River	A naturally flowing watercourse, moving freshwater from source to sea	Source	The origin of the river - where it begins.
Flood	The point at which the amount of water in the river channel exceeds capacity, causing the river to burst	Confluence	The junction of two rivers.
Groundwater	Water held underground in soil or rocks	Meander	A natural bend in the river caused by different rates of erosion and deposition.
Precipitation	Any liquid that falls from our atmosphere, including rainfall, snowfall and hail.	Mouth	The place where the river enters the ocean.
Infiltration	The rate at which the ground will absorb water. Different types of ground will have different infiltration rates	Erosion	The removal of sediment that occurs when the river has high levels of energy.
Evaporation	A change in state from liquid to gas. This happens to water as heat from the sun causes water to turn to gas, creating water vapour.	Transportation	The movement of sediment by the river, from upstream to downstream.
Condensation	Water that collects on a cold surface when humid air (air full of moisture) comes into contact.	Deposition	The dropping of sediment by the river when the river has lower levels of energy.

The Water Cycle



Books and websites linked to our topic

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/river/346203>
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/rivers.html>
https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/home-is-good/fascinating-facts-about-rivers/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI6ljgy5v2-QiViZ7tCh2oiwyqEAMYASAAEgLLtvD_BwE

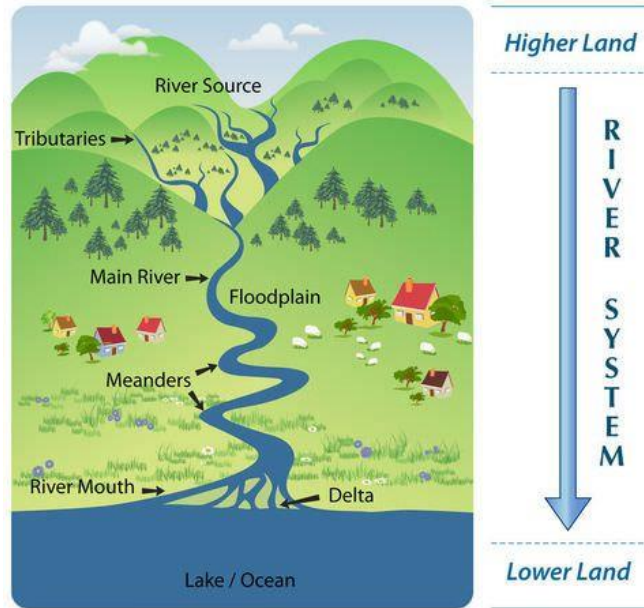
A River by Marc Martin



We will also be reading 'Lost on a mountain in Maine' by Donn Fendler and our class novel, 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell.

A River System

Features of a River



River origin

Rivers start at the source and can flow into the sea (called the mouth) or into other rivers or lakes. Most rivers start in high ground or in mountains.

Upper course

Rain falling in highland areas flows downwards and collects in channels, forming a stream. As the stream continues to run downhill, it's joined by other streams and increases in size and speed. The point where two rivers join is called a confluence. The upper course of a river is where you are likely to see waterfalls.

Middle course

As a river reaches its middle course, the fast-flowing water causes erosion, which makes it deeper and wider. The river erodes left and right, forming horse-shoe like loops called meanders.

Lower course

In the lower course, a river is in flatland and flows slowly. The force of the water is lower than in the other stages, so the river deposits all the bits of eroded land it has been carrying with it.

Rivers of England and Wales



Longest Rivers

In the UK

- Severn (220 miles)
- Thames (215 miles)
- Trent (185 miles)
- Great Ouse (143 miles)
- Wye (134 miles)
- Avon (95 miles)

In the World

- Nile (4,132 miles)
- Amazon (4,000 miles)
- Yangtze (3,975)
- Yellow River (3,395 miles)
- Congo (2,920 miles)
- Mississippi (2,348 miles)
- Ob (2,268 miles)