North America: Rivers

Summary	There are hundreds of rivers across North America. They are vital for irrigation for agriculture, fishing, the generation of hydroelectricity and as navigation routes for shipping. Rivers are also sacred to the Native American indigenous peoples who, for centuries before European colonisation, learnt to use this limited, precious resource wisely.		
Location:	See Map	**Vocabulary:**	**irrigation:** watering crops **rises:** begins **numerous:** many **confluence:** where two or more rivers join together **pesticides:** chemicals used to kill insects that eat crops
Human Features:	N/A	**Physical Features:**	Brazos: rises in the northern part of Texas and flows into the Gulf of Mexico. It is 840 miles (1,351 km) long. Churchill: this river is in Canada. It rises in Saskatchewan and flows into Hudson Bay. It passes through numerous lakes and is known for the rapids along its path. It is 1000 miles (1,609 km) long. Colorado: rises in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and flows into the Gulf of California. It is 1,450 miles (2,333 km) long and over the centuries has formed numerous canyons along its course. The most famous of these is the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona. Columbia: rises in the Canadian Rockies and flows into the Pacific Ocean. It is 1,152 miles (1,854 km) long. Fraser: rises in the Canadian Rockies and flows into the Strait of Georgia, just south of Vancouver. It is 850 miles (1,368 km) long. Mackenzie: the longest river in Canada. It is 1,200 miles (1,931 km) long. Mississippi: rises in Minnesota and flows into the Gulf of Mexico. It is 2,339 miles (3,764 km) long.

			Missouri: the longest river in North America at 2,500 miles (4,023 km) long. It rises in Montana in the Rocky Mountains and flows into the Mississippi River, just to the north of St Louis. Ohio: formed by the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, the Ohio flows into the Mississippi River at the Illinois border and is 975 miles (1,569 km) long. Rio Grande: rises in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado, then flows south through New Mexico. It forms the natural border between Texas and the country of Mexico and flows southeast to the Gulf of Mexico. In Mexico it is known as Rio Bravo del Norte. It is used for drinking water by both countries, but is becoming more polluted because of sewage and pesticides entering the water from population centres along the river that are growing in size. St Lawrence: flows out of Lake Ontario and on into the Gulf of St Lawrence. It is 760 miles (1,223 km) long. It forms part of the natural border, along with the Great Lakes, between Canada and the United States. Yukon: rises in the Yukon Territory of Canada, and then flows across the border into Alaska, ending at the Bering Sea. It is frozen from October to mid-June.
Human Processes:		**Physical Processes:**	N/A
Techniques:	N/A	**Human Processes:**	N/A
Diversity:	N/A	**Key Skills Covered:**	Map Skills
Key Local Links:	N/A	**Common Misconceptions:**	

	Basic	Advancing	Deep
Location	Locate and label on a map the most significant rivers of North America.	Compare and contrast the geographical locations of the Yukon and Mississippi rivers. Compare and contrast the geographical locations of the Colorado and Danube rivers.	Investigate how goods are traded using North American rivers, using locational examples.
Physical Features	Describe the significant physical features of each of these rivers. Define the word 'confluence'.	Explain why pollution in a river affects more than one population. Use the Rio Grande as an example. Explain how some physical features of a river give rise to human activity.	Investigate the physical features found along the route of the Colorado River.