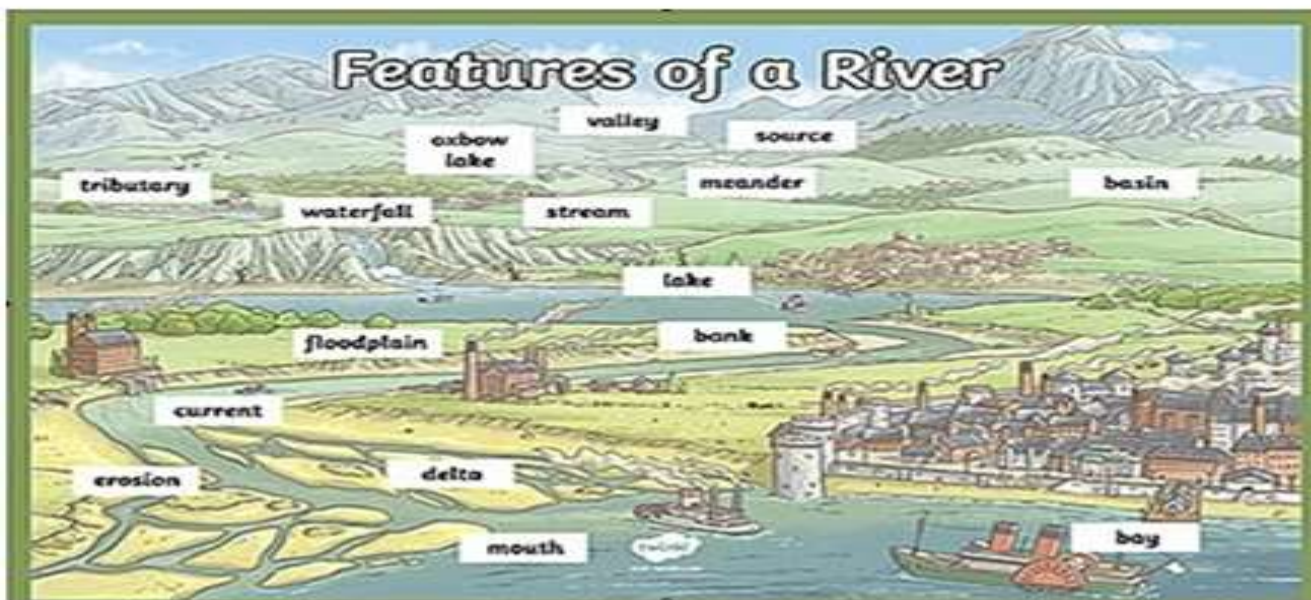


Knowledge Organiser—Rivers



Nile		Length: 6650km the longest river in the world. Mouth: Mediterranean Sea (Egypt). Wildlife: Nile crocodile and hippopotamus.	Source: Lake Victoria (Tanzania) Course: It flows north through north-east Africa.	Fact: The banks along the Nile provide fertile land in the desert.
Amazon		Length: 6400km the second longest river in the world. Mouth: Atlantic Ocean (Brazil) Wildlife: Anaconda, piranhas, pink river dolphin and electric eel.	Source: Andes mountain range (Peru) Course: It flows east across South America.	Fact: The Amazon holds more water than any other river.
Yangtze		Length: 6300km the third longest river in the world. Mouth: East China Sea (Shanghai, China) Wildlife: Yangtze giant softshell turtle, Chinese alligator and Chinese giant salamander. Fact: Home to the Three Gorges Dam, which is one of the largest dams in the world.	Source: Tanggula Mountain Range (China) Course: It flows east across China (Asia).	
Severn		Length: 354km (longest river in the UK) Mouth: Bristol Channel (England) Wildlife: many fish such as carp and eels, as well as otters and water voles. Fact: The estuary of the River Severn provides a physical boundary between England and Wales.	Source: Cambrian Mountains (Wales) Course: It flows in a semi-circular route through Wales and western England.	
Mersey		Length: 112km long Mouth: Liverpool Bay (Irish Sea) Wildlife: Salmon & smolt. Atlantic grey seals and bottlenose dolphins can sometimes be spotted near the estuary. Fact: Every year the Tall Ships Race start on the River Mersey.	Source: River Tame & River Goyt (Stockport) Course: It flows west from Stockport to Liverpool.	
Alt		Length: 28km long Mouth: Irish Sea (Hightown) Wildlife: Pike, sticklebacks, heron and kingfishers. Fact: The towns that are found along the river include Huyton, Kirkby, Maghull and Formby.	Source: Hag Plantation (Huyton) Course: It flows north-west through Merseyside	

Key Vocabulary

Key facts

River	A path that water takes as it flows downhill, usually towards another river or lake, sea or ocean.
Source	The beginning of a river. Some come from underground springs while others are formed by mountain rainfall or snow.
Tributary	A smaller river or stream that feeds into a larger river.
Watershed	The area of land that drains into a specific river.
Floodplain	An area of land (often low-lying) which is covered with water when a river overflows.
Channel	The path that a river takes is called its channel.
Riverbank	The land that runs alongside a river. It is usually fertile land.
Estuary	The point at where a river meets the sea. Fresh water and salt water mix together
Confluence	The point at which two rivers meet.
Meander	A curve in a river that swings in wide loops from side to side.
Mouth	The end of the river (usually the widest point) where it flows into a lake, sea or ocean.
Erosion	When fast flowing rivers knock bits of rock and earth from the bank (side) and bed (bottom) of the river are knocked off and carried downstream. Erosion changes the shape of a river.
Silt	The soil that is carried down stream by erosion. This is deposited (dropped) when the river slows down nearer the mouth.

- The longest river in the UK is the River Severn (354km).

- Our 2 local rivers are the River Alt (28km) and the River Mersey (113km).



- Rivers always flow downhill. The source of the river is always on high ground and the mouth is on flatter land.

- Rivers do not travel in straight lines. They have meanders, which curve from side to side. The shape of a river can change over time due to erosion and deposition.

- Rivers are fresh water. Humans and animals use them as a water source. We also use them for leisure, transport and a power source.

- If there is too much rainfall, rivers may overflow or 'burst their banks'. This causes flooding in the local area.