

Year 5 – Rivers: from source to tap and back again

Spring 2

Key vocabulary	
river	a flowing, moving stream of water
stream	A small, fast flow of water
canal	Waterways built by people used for shipping and transport.
reservoir	The store of water that is help back by a dam
lake	Large bodies of water that are surrounded by land and are not part of an ocean
sea	A huge body of salt water
source	Where a river begins its journey
channel	The path of a river
tributary	A small river or stream that meets a large river
mouth	Where the river enters the sea
confluence	Where two rivers meet
meander	A winding bend in the river
Estuary	The last section of the river before the sea
Water cycle	The journey of water on the Earth

IMPORTANT FACTS

Water always flows downhill. This is important for understanding how rivers form and how they contribute to the water cycle.

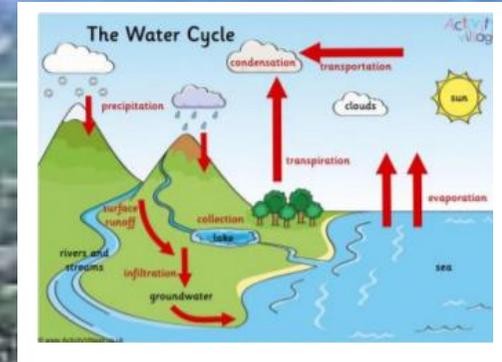
A river is a path that water takes to flow downhill, usually to join another river, a lake, sea or ocean.

Rivers are fresh water; oceans are salt water.

Most of the water that we drink is taken from rivers. It is cleaned before we drink it.

When there has been too much rainfall, rivers may overflow or burst their banks. Because so many flood plains have been built on, this can result in flooding of local areas, sometimes with devastating effect.

Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers. Water was needed for drinking, washing and trade.



Sequence of learning:

Where does our water come from?

Rivers of the world and the UK

The journey of a river (features)

Erosion and deposition

Field study – visit to The Knapp and Papermill

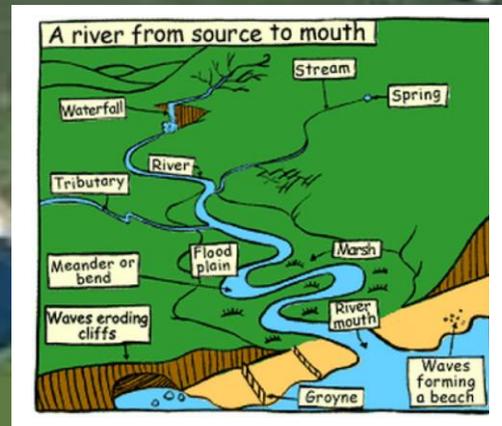
Nature Reserve

How do we use rivers?

Flooding

The River Severn: a documentary

HOW DO RIVERS AFFECT OUR LIVES AND THE ENVIRONMENT THAT SURROUNDS THEM?



Final outcome:

A day in the life of the River Severn: a documentary.



We will find out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages along their banks. By looking at the features of rivers, and natural and human ways that rivers change over time, we will explore the life stories of rivers. We will learn the names and locations of the major rivers of the world and UK and develop our map skills and fieldwork skills by observing, measuring, recording and presenting.

Begin to suggest questions for investigating
 Begin to use primary and secondary sources of evidence
 Collect and record information independently
 Find/recognise places on maps of different scales
 Identify significant places
 Compare maps with aerial photographs
 Begin to use atlases to find out about other features of places
 Explain how a location fits into its wider geographical location, with reference to human features
 Begin to use 4/6 figure coordinates locate features on a map Use and recognise OS symbols
 Use index and contents page within atlases
 Explain about specific areas in the world, describing physical and human features

KEY SKILLS