

Knowledge Organiser - Rivers

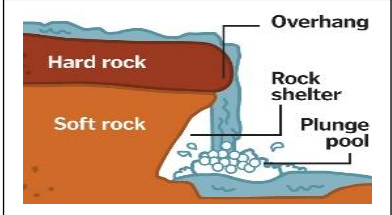
Geography Year 6 Term 5-6

Key Questions

- What is a river system?
- How are the different parts of a river characterised?
- Where are major rivers located in both the world and the UK?
- What are the processes in the water cycle and how do they work?
- How are major river features like ox-bow lakes and waterfalls created?
- What are the major causes of river pollution?
- How have rivers, like the River Severn, been used for throughout history?

Key people

- **Captain James Cook** – English explorer who mapped many unexplored territories from the St Lawrence River, Canada to most of Australia.
- **Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark** – who explored the Western USA in 1804 to find a passage to the Pacific Ocean.
- **John Hanning Speke** – a British army officer who discovered the source of the Nile in 1858.



Useful web links:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/rivers/features.html>

<https://www.3dgeography.co.uk/river-facts>

[https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/rivers-\(1\)/journey-of-a-river/](https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/rivers-(1)/journey-of-a-river/)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks1--ks2-rivers/z6qsf4j>

Key Knowledge

What I should already know...

Year 5

Locational Knowledge

- To locate human and physical characteristics of countries e.g. cities, continents, mountains etc.

Place Knowledge

- To talk about physical and human geographical similarities and differences between the UK and another country.

Human and Physical Geography

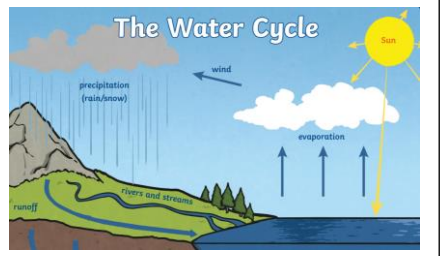
- To accurately describe some aspects of physical geography e.g. climate; biomes and vegetation belts; rivers; mountains; volcanoes and earthquakes and the water cycle.

What I will know by the end of the unit...

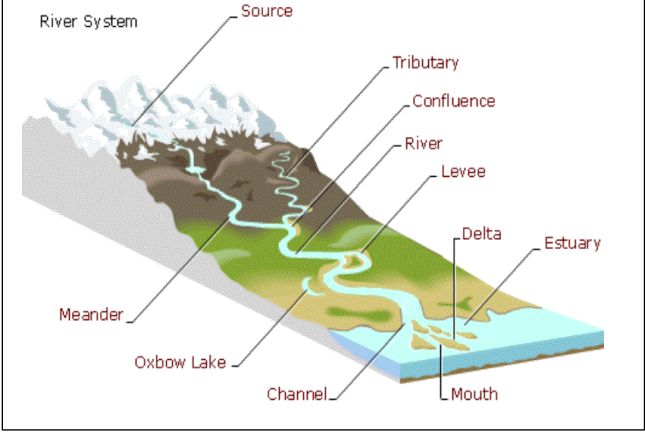
- To locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.
- Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features – key physical features of an area - including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography (the Earth's natural features),
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features.

Key Learning points

The water or hydrological cycle – the process by which water evaporates, rises as a gas and condenses, then falls as rain to complete a cycle. Transpiration is the evaporation of excess water from plants and trees and is part of the initial cycle.



A river system:



Key Vocabulary

River system – the drainage of a piece of land from a river's starting point to where it reaches the sea.

Source – the start of a river usually from an underground spring, snow melt or the run-off of precipitation (rain).

Tributary – a river or stream that flows into a larger river.

Confluence – where two rivers join together.

Meander – a bend in a river which slows down the water's flow

Oxbow lake – a lake that forms when a meander gets cut off from the main river by slow movement and deposition of soil.

Waterfall – created when water erodes the soft rock at the base of a fall (see diagram to the far left).

Mouth – where a river joins the sea or the ocean.

Delta – sediment (soil) deposited at the mouth of a river.

Estuary – where the sea's tide meets the mouth of the river.

Channel – a wide body of water between the two banks of a river.

River pollution – caused by industry, agriculture and litter.

Uses of the River Severn – agriculture, industry, community

	Longest World Rivers	Length (Miles)
1.	Nile	4,135
2.	Amazon	3,980
3.	Yangtze	3,917
4.	Mississippi-Missouri	3,870
5.	Yenisey	3,434

	Longest UK Rivers	Length (Miles)
1.	Severn	220
2.	Thames	215
3.	Trent	185
4.	Great Ouse	143
5.	Wye	135