

Key Vocabulary

water cycle	The cycle of processes by which water circulates between the earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation and returning to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration
upper course	Upper course river features include steep-sided V-shaped valleys, waterfalls and gorges
middle course	Middle course river features include wider, shallower valleys, meanders, and oxbow lakes
lower course	Lower course river features include wide flat-bottomed valleys, floodplains and deltas
river source	The place where a river begins
mouth	The place where the river enters the ocean
river meander	A meander is a winding curve or bend in a river
tributary	A small river or stream that joins a larger river
erosion	The process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents
evaporation	The process by which a liquid turns into a gas

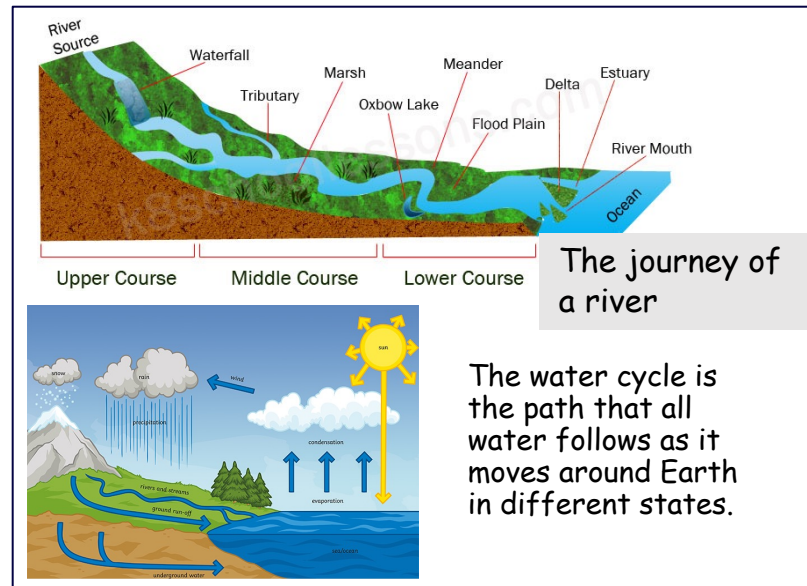
Key Skills

Locational Knowledge

- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: rivers and the water cycle.
- Know about the physical features of coasts.
- Describe and understand key aspects of human geography.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods.



Key Facts

- Rivers begin at their source in higher ground such as mountains or hills, where rainwater or melting snow collects and forms tiny streams.
- Many rivers are formed when rain flows down from hills but sometimes the source is a lake, sometimes it is a marsh or a bog and sometimes it is a spring where water comes up from the ground.
- When one stream meets another and they merge, the smaller stream is known as a tributary. It takes many tributary streams to form a river.
- The great majority of rivers eventually flow into a larger body of water, like an ocean, sea, or large lake. The end of the river is called the mouth.
- Most settlements were built along major rivers. Rivers provide us with food, energy, recreation, transportation routes, and of course water for irrigation and for drinking.
- When rivers are flowing fast, they knock bits of earth from the banks and bed of the river (its sides and bottom) and carry it downstream with them. When earth is taken from the banks of the river this is called **erosion**, and the soil that is carried downstream is called silt.
- The mouth of a river is a good place to build a town. Large boats that cross the sea to other countries can sail into the mouth of the river to unload their cargo and to load local produce to take elsewhere. Small boats can sail up and down the river taking goods to and from the towns that are further inland.

Where do rivers begin?

Key Questions

Where do rivers begin?

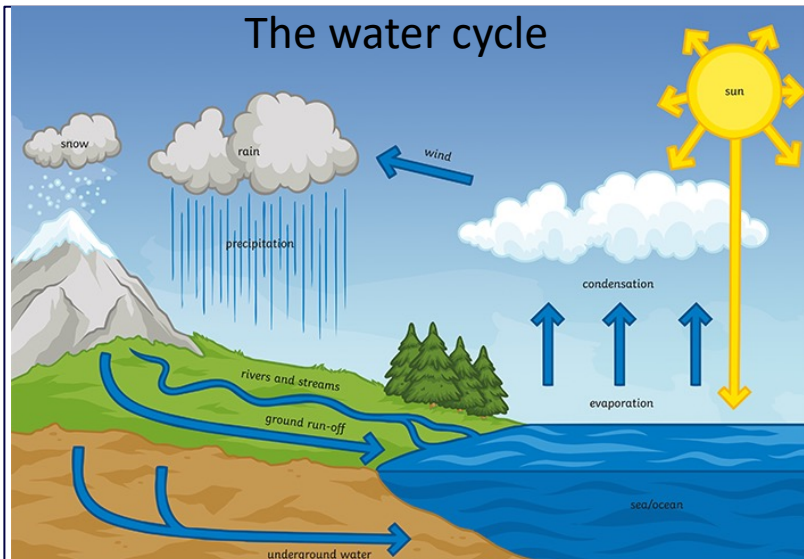
What are the key features of a river?

What is the water cycle?

Why is water such a valuable commodity?

Why do people live near rivers?

How is water used, collected, treated and stored?



Links to other Learning

- Year 1 - Geography - Where do leaves go in the winter? *Explain how the weather changes with each season.*
- Year 2 - Why is Earl Shilton important? *To describe key features of a place using geographical terminology.*
- Year 4 - History - *Where would you choose to build a village/city?*
- Year 6 - What does South America have to offer? *Explain why many cities of the world are situated by rivers.*
- KS3 - Geography - *human/physical geography of rivers*

Links to other Subjects

- Computing - *using digital computing/mapping to locate rivers across the world.*
- Science - *thinking about erosion and its links to our science topic 'properties of materials'.*
- History - *settlements and why do people situate themselves near rivers.*
- D&T - *design, create and evaluate a toy powered by water*
- English - *Poetry Shape poetry based on rivers*
Recounts Based on 'A River' by Marc Martin
Explanation Text The water cycle

