



Key Stage 2 - Knowledge Organiser

Geography - The Journey of a River

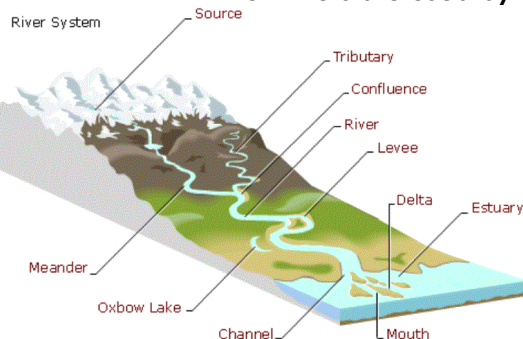


Key Knowledge I know that...

- Rivers are an important part of the water cycle and responsible for transferring water to oceans.
- A river is a moving body of water that flows from its source on high ground, across land, and then into another body of water, which could be a lake, the sea, an ocean or even another river.

Source to Sea	Upper Course	Middle Course	Lower Course
Location	The river begins in hills/mountains	The river travels through its floodplains	The river reaches the sea
Features	Source Rapids Waterfalls	Meander Oxbow lake Floodplain	Estuary Mouth Delta
Altitude (how high up above sea level the river is)	At its highest altitude (height)	Close to sea level	At sea level (if it ends at the sea)
Width	Narrowest	Wider but not at its widest	Widest
Speed of water (current)	At its most fast flowing (most energy)	The river is slowing down	At its most slow flowing
Erosion Transportation & Deposition	The river mostly erodes and transports	Erosion on the outside of the meanders. Deposition on the inside on the meanders.	The river deposits its remaining sediment.

- **UK rivers are used for leisure** such as boating, paddle boarding, swimming and fishing. People also walk along rivers.
- **UK rivers are used by industries** to supply water to homes and businesses. They are also used for transportation and power generation.



Water pollution affects wildlife and humans. Examples of water pollution:

- chemicals and dirty water being channelled back into rivers.
- Litter being dumped or blown into rivers.

The **River Nidd** is the fourth longest of Yorkshire's nine rivers.

The source of the River Nidd is at Nidd Head Spring on the slopes of Great Whernside in Nidderdale, It is a tributary of the River Ouse.

In its first few miles it is dammed three times to create three reservoirs.

The gorge was sculpted by the River Nidd during the last Ice Age.



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Key Vocabulary



Vocabulary

source	Where a river begins. Snow melts or rain falls on high ground, like a mountain, and begins to flow downhill.
valley	Rivers begin high up in the mountains, so they flow quickly downhill eroding the landscape. This forms a valley.
waterfall	Water which falls over a steep rocky ledge into a plunge pool.
erosion	Erosion involves the wearing away of rock and soil found along the riverbed and banks. Erosion also involves the breaking down of the rock particles being carried downstream by the river.
rapids	Fast-flowing water in a steep, shallow area of a river.
deposition	When water loses energy, it drops the material it has been carrying, like sand and gravel (sediment/silt)
meander	A bend in the river caused by erosion and deposition.
oxbow lake	A U-shaped lake that forms when meanders meet each other. The river water breaks through forming a new channel. The meander gets blocked off with sand and gravel and becomes an oxbow lake.
tributary	A stream or river that flows into another stream or river instead of flowing into the sea. They add lots of water to the main river, which makes it wider and deeper.
confluence	The point where a tributary river meets another river.
floodplain	The land next to a river that floods if it rains too much. When this happens, the river overflows into the surrounding area. The landscape around the lower course is flat so it is more prone to flooding.
River mouth	Where a river meets an ocean, sea or loch. The river deposits a lot of the gravel, sand, silt and clay that it has been carrying at the river's mouth.
delta	Deltas are wetlands that form as rivers empty their water and sediment into another body of water, such as an ocean, lake, or another river.
estuary	An estuary is where the river meets the sea. The river here is tidal and when the sea retreats the volume of the water in the estuary is reduced