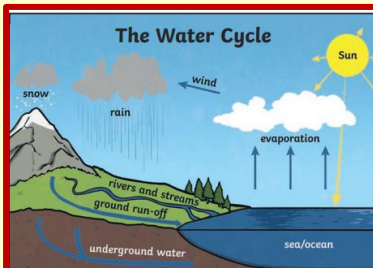


Raging Rivers

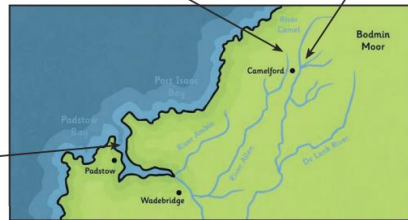
Year 6 Geography Knowledge Organiser Summer Term 2025

This term, in Geography, we will find out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. By looking at the features of rivers, and the 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 UK and the world.



Some rivers join up with other rivers (**tributaries**). The point where they meet is called a **confluence**.

The **source** of most rivers is on high ground or in the mountains.



Rivers in England, at their **mouth**, will flow into either the: North Sea, Irish Sea, English **Channel** or Atlantic Ocean.

Key Vocabulary

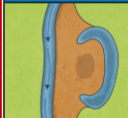
channel	dam
deposition	discharge
erosion	mouth
source	tidal bore
tributaries	valley

Meander - a curve in the river



Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.

How Do We Use Rivers?

Leisure e.g. fishing	+	Controlled population of fish
	-	May leave litter and pollute the water
Industry e.g. factories	+	Sections of rivers maintained
	-	Chemicals pollute the water and habitats
Tourism e.g. walking routes	+	Conservation and education about local wildlife
	-	Too many people near wildlife habitats

The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.

Hydroelectric Power

1. Water is held behind a **dam**.
2. When needed, some of the water is released and flows through a pipe (penstock).
3. The falling water turns a water wheel (turbine) which is linked to a generator which produces electricity.
4. The water continues into the river on the other side of the **dam**.

