

Raging Rivers | Geography | Years 5 & 6 | Summer Term 2020-21

Location

UK Rivers	Examples of UK rivers include the: Thames, Severn, Mersey, Tweed and Trent.
World Rivers	Examples of world rivers include the: Nile, Amazon, Congo, Ganges, Mississippi and Yangtze. The Nile is the longest river in the world whilst the Amazon is the biggest river in the world by discharge.

Human Features and Processes

Dams (assembly?)	Dams are barriers built to hold back water. Water held behind a dam is usually held in a reservoir. Positive impacts include: to generate power, to control the flow to prevent flooding, tourism and employment. Negative impacts include: relocation, destruction of habitats and change to eco-systems.
Human uses of rivers	Uses of rivers include: fishing, factories, power generation, tourism and water sports. These each have advantages, disadvantages and future impacts.

Physical Features and Processes

Water cycle	The water cycle is a continuous cycle: it has been happening since the start of time, and will continue. It is a closed cycle: there is no more or less water now than at the start.
Stages	Rivers can be divided into three stages, each with their own distinguishing features: Upper course, Middle course and Lower course. (See vocabulary for definitions of key features).
Shape / course	Rivers do not flow in straight lines as they have to avoid obstacles as they flow downhill. People have also altered river courses over time. Erosion and deposition can also change the shape of a river, forming meanders and oxbow lakes.

Vocabulary

Mouth	The point where a river joins the sea.
Source	The place where a river begins.
Tributary	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.
Discharge	The amount of water that flows out of a river's mouth, per second.
Confluence	The point where two rivers join.
Meander	[horse-shoe like loops in a rivers course]
Delta	A landform created by deposition of sediment carried by a river as its flow leaves it mouth.
Estuary	The tidal mouth of a large river.
Levee	A raised bank of a river (natural or man-made) which can offer protection against floods.
Oxbow Lake	A U-shaped lake that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water.
Floodplain	An area of low-lying ground nearby a river and subject to flooding.
Channel	A groove in the land that a river flows along.
Erosion	The wearing away of land by forces such as water, wind and ice. The material worn away is known as sediment.
Deposition	When sediment is deposited (or 'dropped off') in a different location.

Geographical Skills

1	Use an index and legend in an atlas / on a map to identify the source and mouth of, and key locations along rivers in the UK.
2	Use an index and legend in an atlas / on a map to identify the source and mouth of, and key locations along rivers around the world. Conduct internet research to identify and compare the length and discharge of world rivers.
3	Use knowledge of erosion and deposition to identify and label meanders and oxbow lakes on maps.

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Lesson Progression

1	Explain that the water cycle is continuous and understand that it is a closed cycle. Use an index and legend in an atlas / on a map to identify the source and mouth of, and key locations along rivers in the UK.
2	Use an index and legend in an atlas / on a map to identify the source and mouth of, and key locations along rivers around the world. Conduct internet research to discover the length and discharge of world rivers. Compare the length and discharge of different rivers around the world.
3	Explain that a river can be divided into three stages, each with its own defining features. Recall these features to label a diagram of a river and to compare the features of a river at different points along its course.
4	Explain why rivers do not travel in straight lines. Describe how water erodes a river bank and how deposition changes the shape of a river. Understand and explain how meanders and oxbow lakes form through erosion and deposition. Use this knowledge to identify examples of erosion (meanders) and deposition (oxbow lakes) on maps.
5 (assembly)	List and organise different ways rivers are used. Identify advantages and disadvantages for different uses of rivers, explaining their possible future impacts.
6 (assembly)	Explain the impact of damming rivers, giving reasons why they are built, the advantages and benefits of building a dam, and the disadvantages and risks of building a dam.

Whole School Big Ideas

Location, Physical Features, Human Features, Diversity, Physical Processes, Human Processes, Geographical Techniques and Fieldwork

Whole School Key Themes

Place, Space, Scale, Environment, Inter-connection, Sustainability, Change