

National Curriculum – Geography

Locational knowledge

- Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time

Human and physical geography

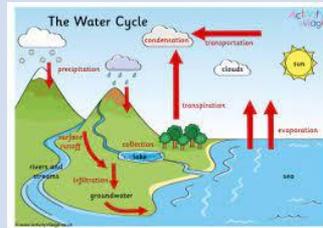
- Describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.
- Human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital / computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

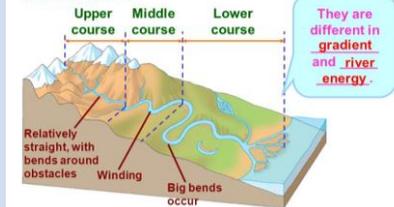
Physical Features & Processes

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.



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).

What are the different sections along a river course?



Rivers do not flow in straight lines as they have to avoid obstacles as they flow downhill. Erosion and deposition can also change the shape of a river, forming meanders and oxbow lakes.

Human Features & Processes

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 include: transportation, fishing, factories, power generation, tourism and water sports. These each have advantages, disadvantages and future impacts.



People have also altered river courses over time.

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 river's 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 where fresh water meets salt water.

Levee: A raised bank of a river which can offer protection against floods.

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.

Location & Techniques

Examples of UK rivers include the: Thames, Severn, Mersey, Tweed and Trent.



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.

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.

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.

Use knowledge of erosion and deposition to identify and label meanders and oxbow lakes on maps.



meander



ox-bow lake

Key Learning: To develop our knowledge of the features of rivers, how they are formed and their uses.

1 Where does our water come from?

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 What are the major rivers of the world?

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 What are the features of a river?

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 How are rivers formed? Why do they change over time?

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 How are rivers used?

Discussed during assemblies. List and organise different ways rivers are used. Identify advantages and disadvantages for different uses of rivers, explaining their possible future impacts. 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.