

Knowledge Organiser

Subject: Geography Unit: How does a river change from source to mouth?

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will study the physical features of rivers and look at how they change from source to mouth, study the importance of rivers for wildlife and eco-systems and look at some of the longest rivers in the UK including the local River Ouse.

What should I already know? Vocabulary:

- Natural features occur naturally such as mountains and volcanoes whereas man-made features have been built or created by humans.
- The River Seine runs through the middle of Paris.
- The water cycle is the path that all water follows as it moves around Earth in different states. Liquid water is found in oceans, rivers, lakes—and even underground. Solid ice is found in glaciers, snow, and at the North and South Poles. Water vapor—a gas—is found in Earth’s atmosphere.

Mouth	Where a river ends and joins the sea.
Source	Where the river begins.
Stream	A small, narrow river.
Mud bank	Mud which is located on the river bed.
Tidal Estuary	The tidal mouth of a large river where the tide meets the stream.
Flood plain	An area of low lying ground near to a river which is likely to flood.
Meandering	A river following a winding course.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- Almost every river in the world flows from the land to the sea - from its source where it begins in higher ground, such as hills and mountains, to its mouth in lower ground along the coast.
- The course of a river changes from source to mouth. The river can change in direction as well as speed.
- The River Axe in Dorset for example begins as a narrow stream which is difficult to identify using aerial images. As it gets closer to the mouth however it begins to meander and gets noticeably wider.
- The Great Ouse river begins in Northamptonshire and flows through Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk before draining into the Wash and North Sea near to King’s Lynn. It has a course of approximately 143 miles making it the fifth longest river in the United Kingdom.
- As rivers enter the sea they become much wider with large areas of mud banks on both sides. These mud banks are covered and uncovered each day by the tide.



Aerial view taken at low tide showing the mud banks either side of the River Exe.

- Where the river flows into the sea, this is known as an Estuary. At this point, incoming salt water from the sea mixes with outgoing freshwater from the river.

Tributaries	A body of water that flows into another body of water.
Channel	A length of water, joining two larger areas of water - especially two seas.
Erode	The process where wind or water naturally wears away soil, rock or land.

- The longest rivers in the world are: The River Nile, Amazon and the Yangtze.
- The River Severn is the longest river in the UK (just slightly longer than the River Thames). It flows into one of the largest estuaries situated between Bristol and Cardiff, before entering the Bristol Channel.
- Other rivers in the UK include the Wye, Tweed, Tyne, Thames, Exe and Trent.
- Rivers are an important part of the water cycle as they return excess precipitation from the land to the sea, where it originated.
- Almost every year the people of Bangladesh suffer from very serious flooding as rivers burst their banks and flow over the land, towns and cities.
- Flooding in Bangladesh is due to three main reasons: the country is very low and flat, there are three major rivers flowing through Bangladesh and they also have a very high rainfall between May and August.



Sediment

Matter that is carried by water or wind and deposited on the surface of the land or the seabed, and may in time become consolidated into rock.

Brook

A small stream.

Spring

A place where water moving underground finds an opening to the land surface and emerges.