

Year 4 Geography Knowledge Organiser - Rivers

Selected Vocabulary and Definitions

Sea	A sea is smaller than an ocean and usually located where the land and an ocean meets.
Valley	A low area of land between hills or mountains.
Cliff	A tall, steep rock usually found on the coast.
Coast	The part of the land near the sea.
Contour	An outline.
Erosion	Gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil by river, sea or weather.
Deposition	When the river loses energy, it drops any of the material it has been carrying.
Transportation	Sediment carried downstream by the river.
Headland	A coastal landform, a point of land usually high and often with a sheer drop, that extends into a body of water.
Meander	A winding curve or bend of a river or road.
Floodplain	An area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river.
River	A large, natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake or another river.
Tributary	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.
Delta	A landform created by the deposition of materials carried by a river.
Source	The original point that a river flows from, e.g. rain.
Mouth	The place where a river enters a lake, a larger river or the sea.
Waterfall	A body of water's steep fall over a rocky ledge.
Estuary	When rivers reach the sea and the water slows down and spreads out over a larger area.

Curriculum Objectives

- Identify features of a river.
- Explain how rivers erode, transport and deposit materials.
- Explain about the physical features of coasts and begin understand erosion and deposition.
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: rivers, mountains and the water cycle.
- Understand and use geographical terms such as meander, floodplain, location, water cycle.
- Understand and use a widening range of terms such as contour, height, valley, erosion, deposition, transportation, headland.



Key Knowledge

- A river is the path that water takes as it flows downhill towards the ocean.
- Rivers can be used for lots of good things, like sailing boats on them to trade goods with other towns on the river, and farming on land that has been made fertile by the river.
- Rivers do a lot of damage when they flood.
- Water always flows downhill.
- When two rivers meet they will join together and form a single bigger river. Before a big river reaches the sea, it will be joined by lots and lots of smaller rivers. These are a river's tributaries.
- The area of land around a river that floods when the river is too full is called the 'floodplain'.
- When rivers reach the sea, they often spread out over a wide area and slow right down. This part of the river is called the estuary.

Key Questions

- Name three features of a river.
- How do materials travel along a river?
- How are materials deposited in rivers?
- What is erosion and what is its impact?
- What is evaporation, condensation and precipitation, and how do they play an important part in the water cycle?