



Geography – Year 5 Summer 2

Rivers

By Year 5, pupils will already have learned to identify physical features such as rivers, mountains, and coasts on maps and in the local environment. They will have explored how water moves through the water cycle and may have begun to understand the basic concept of rivers as part of that system.

Vocabulary

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
River	Channel	Estuary
Map	Meander	Erosion
Mountain	Delta	Ecosystem
Source	Reservoir	Tributary
Mouth	Region	Oxbow lake








Useful Resources

World map, atlases, Google Earth-Exploring the Anthropocene.

Rivers Key Learning

- A river is a path that water takes as it flows downhill, normally towards another river, a lake, sea or ocean.
- Rivers come in many different shapes and sizes and often join together to make larger rivers.
- As rivers are a ready source of water, lots of plants and animals live near them.
- Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers.
- In addition to drinking and bathing, rivers were also important waterways for trade.
- Rivers can flood, at which point they become exceptionally dangerous and can cause widespread damage in the local communities.

Notable Rivers

	The Nile is considered the longest river in the world. It runs through north-eastern Africa, travelling through 11 countries, including Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia and Burundi.
	The Amazon holds the most volume of water of any other river in the world and is responsible for one fifth of the world's freshwater. The Amazon supports the vast Amazon Rainforest and is located South America.
	This is the longest river in Asia, fed by glaciers in the Tanggula Mountains of China. The river runs through China and empties into the East China Sea. Nearly 500 million people live in its watershed.
	The Mississippi River is one of the most famous rivers in North America and runs through several major cities. The Mississippi joins with the Missouri River to form the largest river system in North America.
	The Thames is one of the longest rivers in the UK, but it is short compared to other rivers in the world. It flows through London and has an estuary which feeds into the North Sea. It has frozen in winter in the past.

Features of a River

