Geography	Rivers	Year 5

Key Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
erosion	moving water or wind causing tiny pieces of the Earth's surface to be moved from one place to another
source	the point at which a river starts
upper course	the first stage of a river, often located on high ground
middle course	the second stage of a river, where the land is flatter and the river wider
lower course	the land is flat, and the river is at its widest
valley	an area that lies between ranges of hills or mountains that a river flows through
silt	solid, dust-like sediment that water, ice and wind transport and deposit
tributaries	small streams that join the larger river
meander	the natural bend in a river
oxbow lake	a section of a meander that becomes isolated from the main river channel and eventually dries out
mouth	the point where the river ends
estuary	the point where the river meets the sea in the lower course
floodplain	a flat area surrounding a river or stream
delta	a wetland area that forms as river waters empty into a larger body of water
channel	the river bed and banks in which a river flows

Key Knowledge





Water flows from rivers to the ocean and sea
Lots of animals live in rivers
Rivers can flood if there is a lot of rainfall
The start of a river is called the source
The end of a river is called a mouth
The longest river in the world is the River Nile
The UK's biggest river is the Severn and the second longest is the River Thames
Rivers can create canyons, waterfalls and lakes
Rivers have currents and can be dangerous



