



Y5 Knowledge Organiser – Investigating Rivers

What will I be able to do by the end of the unit?

This unit focuses on the study of rivers. Students will use atlases to locate and identify various bodies of water and label maps to show the location of rivers. They will compare and contrast the length of different rivers and complete a table to show this information. Students will also understand the life of a river and use the correct terminology to describe it, including how vegetation and animal life change in the different layers of a river. They will investigate the impact of climate change and plastic pollution on oceans, seas, and rivers and create a campaign to limit plastic pollution. Additionally, students will learn about the formation of oxbow lakes through erosion and deposition and explain the effects of erosion and deposition on meanders and deltas using appropriate geographical vocabulary.

Oceans, Seas and Rivers – what's the difference?

- Oceans are very large areas of salt water that cover approximately two-thirds of the Earth's surface.
- Seas are smaller areas of salt water that separate oceans and land.
- Rivers are natural streams of fresh water that flow into seas, oceans and lakes.

Layers of the ocean

Features of a river

Erosion and Deposition

The arrows show the direction of the **river current** which causes **erosion** over time.

Sometimes, two **meanders** can join together to form a 'shortcut'. Water will flow down the shorter route, **deposition** will block off the old route and this will create an **oxbow lake**.

What should I already know?

- The seven continents, five oceans and surrounding seas of the United Kingdom.
- The names of some key rivers around the world including the Thames and the Nile.
- The main biomes and climate zones around the world.
- The water cycle and where our water comes from.
- How sedimentary rocks are formed.
- The effects of climate change on the poles

Key Vocabulary	
Biome	a natural area of vegetation and animals
Climate change	changes in the earth's climate, especially the gradual rise in temperature, as a result of human activity
Climate zone	sections of the Earth that are divided according to the climate. There are three main climate zones; polar, temperate and tropical.
Confluence	where two rivers join and become a larger river
Continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent
Course	the channel along which the river flows
Current	a steady and continuous flowing movement of some of the water in a river, lake, or sea
Delta	an area of low land where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea
Deposition	on when a substance has been left somewhere as a result of a process
Erosion	the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil in a particular area by rivers, the sea, or the weather
Estuary	the wide part of a river where it joins the sea
Lake	a large area of fresh water, surrounded by land
Meander	a large bend in a river
Mouth	where a river flows into the sea
Ocean	one of the five very large areas of salt water on the Earth's surface.
Pollution	the process of polluting water, air, or land, especially with poisonous chemicals
Sedimentary	solid material that settles at the bottom of a liquid, especially earth and pieces of rock that have been carried along and then left somewhere by water, ice, or wind
Source	where something comes from
Spring	a natural outflow of ground water
Stream	a small narrow river
Tributary	a stream or river that flows into a larger one
Water cycle	the circulation of the earth's water

Unit 1: Label the following with O, S or R to show if they are oceans, seas or rivers:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Pacific		
North		
Thames		
Stour		
Atlantic		
English Channel		

Unit 2: Order these 1-4 to show the start of a river (1) to where it meets the sea (4)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Stream		
Tributary		
Source		
Mouth		

Unit 3: The process of erosion and deposition can help form which of these:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Oxbow lakes		
Seas		
Oceans		
Rivers		

Unit 4: Order these 1-4 to show the shallowest part of the ocean (1) to the deepest part (4)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Trench		
Sunlight zone		
Twilight zone		
Abyss		
Midnight zone		

Unit 5: Order these 1-4 to show the shallowest part of the ocean (1) to the deepest part (4)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Vegetation		
Current		
Sediment		

Unit 6: The source of the river is where it....	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Begins		
Ends		
Meanders		
Falls from a waterfall		