

Prior knowledge / Key Knowledge

Year 4 – The water cycle

- 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 to make larger rivers.
- A river has three main stages: upper course, middle course and lower course.
- As rivers a ready source of water, lots of plants/ animals often live near or in them.
- Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers. In addition to drinking and bathing, rivers were also important waterways for trade.
- Rivers have many uses around the world, including cleaning, cooking, growing crops, transport and creating power.
- Rivers can flood, at which point they can become exceptionally dangerous.

Key Skills

Human and physical geography

Describe and understand key aspects of: ☐ physical geography, including: rivers,

Geographical skills and fieldwork

To observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies

Rivers

Year 5



Vocabulary

Source	The start of a river – a spring, lake, bog or marsh.
Confluence	The junction of two rivers.
Meander	A river that flows a winding course.
Tributaries	A small river or stream that joins a big river.
Flood plain	The flat area around the river that often gets flooded when the river level is high.
Mouth	The end of the river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake.
Erosion	How wind, water and waves break down and remove rock and soil
Basin	The land water must cross to reach a river. It collects all available water from tributaries, creeks and streams in its area.
Delta	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea. The river slows down and drops all the sediment it is carrying.
Estuary	Where the river meets the ocean and the river and ocean mix.

Big Questions/Challenging Perceptions



Using the definitions, decide where to add the following unmarked labels to the diagram of a river's journey: confluence, floodplain, basin and delta.

Identify and describe the main risk to river wildlife through the overuse of packaging and plastic.