

## Vocabulary

**River:** a large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.

**Source:** where a river starts its journey and is usually found in the hills or mountains.

**Mouth:** where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean. River mouths are places of much activity.

**Meander:** rivers flowing over gently sloping ground begin to curve, loop or bend back and forth across the landscape.

**Channel:** the course in the ground that a river or water flows through.

**Delta:** where silt (fine sand) and sediment (matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid) are emptied at the mouth of a river.

**Oxbow Lake:** a meander of a stream, river or creek, that has become separated from the flow of water.

**Floodplain:** An area of low-lying ground next to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding. Usually found in the lower river.

**Waterfall:** an area where water flows over a vertical drop or a series of steep drops in the course of a stream or river.

**Confluence:** a meeting point of two or more rivers.

**Estuary:** where the fresh and the saltwater mix. It is usually at the mouth of the river.

**Levee:** a natural or artificial wall that blocks water from going where we don't want it to go.

## The Course of a River

### The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in channels and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through valleys. Features include – waterfalls and rapids.

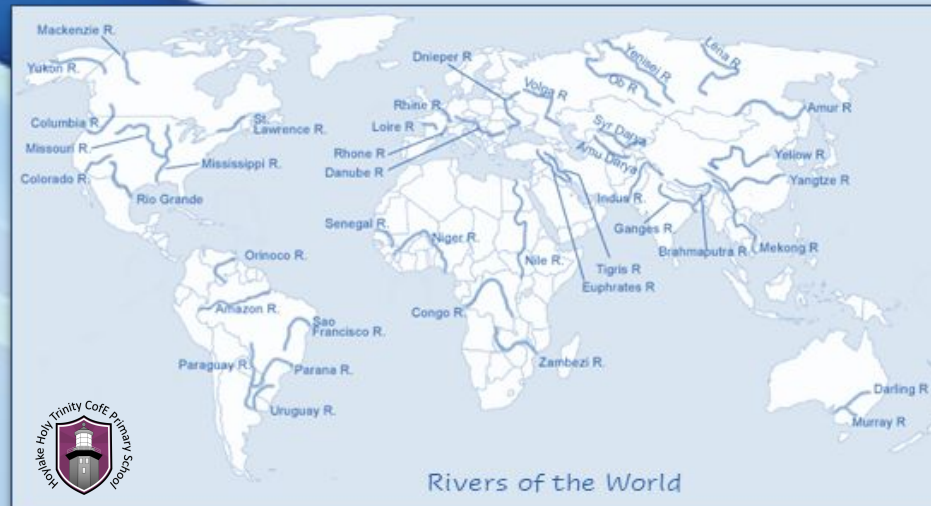
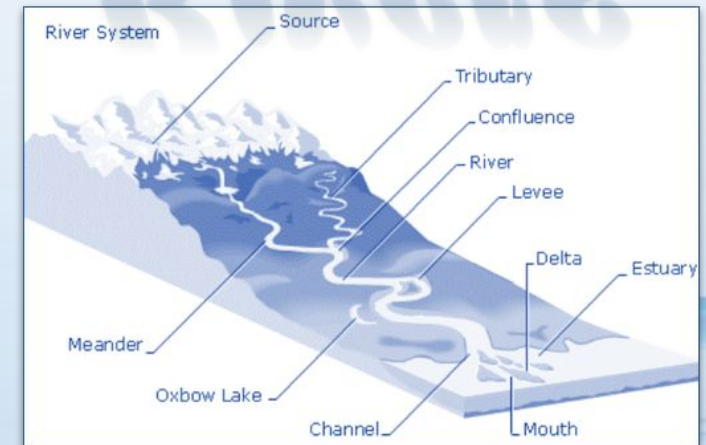
### The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes erosion making the river deeper and wider. Features include – meanders.

### The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river deposits the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include – floodplains, deltas and estuaries

# Rivers



### Did You Know?

Angel Falls in Venezuela is the world's highest waterfall at a staggering 979m tall!

In Colombia, the aquatic plants of Caño Cristales – known as the 'River of Five Colours' – make the waters flow with bright blue, red, black, yellow and green!

## Rivers of the World

### North America

The Colorado River runs through 7 states of the USA. The Grand Canyon is a large and deep valley that the Colorado River has shaped by eroding the landscape over millions of years.

### Africa

The Nile River is in the North East of Africa. It is the longest river in Africa and flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

### South America

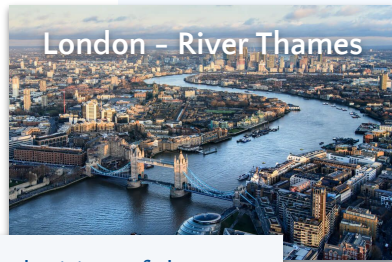
The Amazon is the longest river in the world. The source of the Amazon River is the Andes Mountains in Peru.

### Europe

The longest river in Europe is the Volga River. It is located in Russia. The Volga River's source is in the Valdai Hills.



Edinburgh – Firth of Forth



London – River Thames



Cardiff – River Taff



Belfast – River Lagan

### Rivers and the Capital Cities of the UK

### Rivers of the UK

Being a relatively small Island, the UK's rivers are not very long.

The longest river in the UK is the river Severn, just 220 miles in length. It begins in Wales and enters the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol in England.

Other major rivers include the Thames, which flows through Oxford and London, and the Trent and Mersey rivers, which drain rainfall from large areas of central England.



### Our Local Rivers

The **Mersey** acts as a border between Wirral and Liverpool.

The **Dee** acts as a border between England and Wales



### Vocabulary

#### Agriculture

The scientific term for farming. It includes growing crops and raising livestock.

#### Transportation

The movement of goods and people from one place to another.

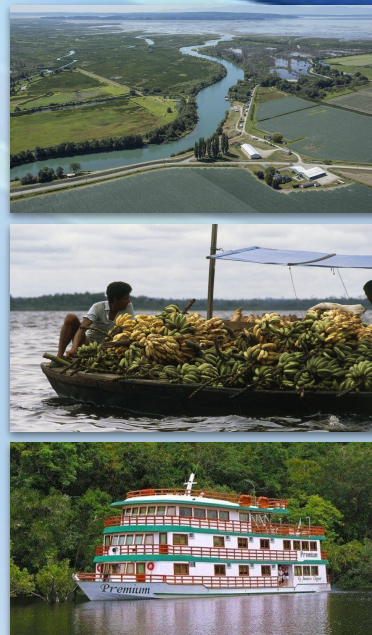
#### Tourism

The name given to when people visit an area for pleasure, eg: holidays and sightseeing.

#### Fertile Land

Soil capable of growing crops and vegetables.

### Why Are Rivers important to people?



Rivers are a source of fresh drinking water and food (fish).

The banks of a river are often fertile and are good for agriculture.

People and goods are often transported on boats along rivers.

Tourism, people visiting rivers, provides jobs for local people.

### What are the disadvantages of living near a river?



Water pollution is when waste, chemicals, or other particles cause rivers to become harmful to the fish and animals that need the water to survive.



A flood is an overflow of water onto land that is not normally under water. This can sometimes damage land, property and can result in loss of life.