

Knowledge Organiser

Year 4
Autumn 1
Geography: Rivers

Vocabulary

Channel: a wide strait or waterway between two landmasses that lie close to each other

Glaciers: a huge mass of ice that moves slowly over land

Meander: has a single channel that winds snakelike through its valley; a turn or winding of a stream

Monsoon: a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing, or strongest, winds of a region. Monsoons cause wet and dry seasons throughout much of the tropics

River Indus: an Asian river that rises in Tibet and flows through northern India and then southwest through Kashmir and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea

Stream: a small, narrow river

Tributaries: a freshwater stream that feeds into a larger stream, river or other body of water

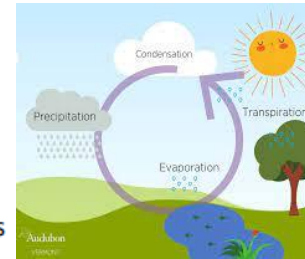
Rivers

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.



The Water Cycle



River Indus, Asia



River Severn, UK

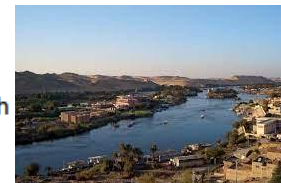
Water always flows downhill. This is important for understanding how rivers form and how they contribute to the water cycle.

Rivers are fresh water – oceans are salt water.

When rivers are flowing quickly, they take bits of earth (sediment) off banks, downstream called **erosion**. When there has been too much rainfall, rivers may overflow or 'burst their banks', causing significant flooding.

Silt and sediment are materials carried by running water.

Sometimes rivers carry so much silt and sediment, they can form new land, called a Delta.



What we will learn by the end of the unit

- The River Indus - its source, course, uses, and some of its environmental challenges.
- How rivers get their water - the source, springs, the water cycle
- How do rivers shape the land?
- Flooding.
- River Severn: builds sense of place
- Wildlife in the River Severn- Fishing, local agriculture, pollution problems.

Features of a River

