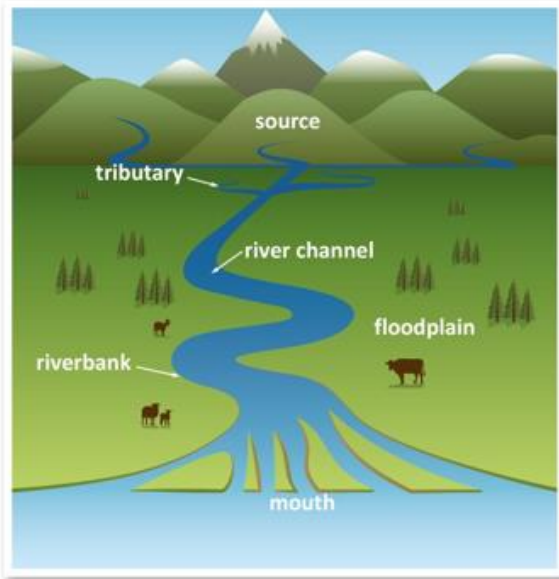


Year 3 ~ How do rivers and coasts change the world around us?

Parts of a river



- source** The place where a river starts.

- tributary** A river or stream that flows into a larger river.

- river channel** A route along which water travels.

- floodplain** An area of flat land next to a river that floods when the river is too full.

- riverbank** The land at the edge of a river.

- mouth** The end of a river, where the water flows into a sea or lake.

Physical features of rivers

Meander
A meander is a bend in a river or stream. It is formed when fast-flowing water erodes the riverbank and deposits silt and mud inside a bend.



Waterfall
A waterfall is water that falls from a higher to a lower level. Waterfalls form when water flows from hard rock to soft rock. The water erodes the soft rock at the bottom of the waterfall and leaves a ledge of hard rock over which the water flows.



V-shaped valley
A V-shaped valley is a valley formed when a river erodes an area of soft rock. The steep sides are created when the edges of the river erode and collapse.



Using rivers

In the past, rivers provided food and fresh water for drinking and washing. Farmers grew crops near rivers because the soil was fertile. The power of flowing water was also used by machines, such as waterwheels, to make flour and wood pulp. Trade routes often used rivers to transport goods by boat. Rivers also provided a defensive barrier against invaders. Today, rivers are used for leisure activities such as fishing, canoeing and rowing.

Settlements near rivers

People have built settlements next to rivers for thousands of years because rivers can provide all the basic needs for life. Many towns and cities started as small settlements near rivers. London was built by the Romans next to the River Thames. York was built where two rivers, the Ouse and Foss, meet. The rivers provided protection, transport and fresh water.

World Rivers

Name of river	Continent	Length
Thames	Europe	346km
Havel	Europe	324 km
Eresma	Europe	134km
Nile	Africa	6650km
Amazon	South America	6500km
Yangtze	Asia	6300km
Ganges	Asia	2510km

Water pollution

Water can become polluted by waste. Chemicals that farmers put on fields can get washed off into rivers and streams. These chemicals help algae to grow. Algae is a plant-like living organism that takes oxygen from the water so there is less for aquatic plants and animals to use. Plastic pollution is also a huge problem around the world. Plastic is man-made and doesn't degrade. Animals can die if they mistake plastic for food or become tangled in plastic fishing nets.

Flooding and floodplains

The disadvantage of living next to a river is that rivers can flood. A floodplain is an area of low-lying, flat ground next to a river. If there is a lot of water in the river, it might spill over the riverbank and flood. In some cities, such as York, the river water regularly floods the surrounding area, including roads, businesses and homes.



Flooding in York

Bodies of Water



Ocean



Stream



Sea



Lake



Pond



River

Our local river



The River Taw is in Devon, England. Its source is near the village of Belstone on Dartmoor. The river flows through towns like Barnstaple before reaching its mouth, where it joins the Bristol Channel at an estuary shared with the River Torridge. The River Taw is used for farming, fishing, and recreation. People enjoy activities such as canoeing, walking, and birdwatching along its banks. The estuary is an important habitat for wildlife, including birds and fish. The river also helps transport nutrients to the sea, supporting marine life.

Glossary

aquatic	Refers to something that is growing, living or happening in water.
collection	The process of water gathering in oceans, rivers, lakes and streams
current	The movement of water, electricity or air in a certain direction.
degrade	The process of breaking down or decaying.
erosion	The process of soil and stone being gradually damaged and moved away by water, wind or rain.
fertile	Refers to soil that produces healthy crops because it contains nutrients.
flood	A large amount of water covering an area that is usually dry.
nutrient	A substance that plants or animals need to live or grow.
pollution	Damage caused to water, air or the environment by waste or harmful substances.
sediment	Sand and silt that slowly form a layer of rock.
silt	Material carried by running water and deposited as a sediment.