

Class 3 – Autumn 2 – Rivers and the Water Cycle Sparks Might Fly



What will we be learning?

- About the water cycle, explaining how it creates a river.
- To locate Key rivers in the UK.
- To locate Key rivers of the World.
- To describe the main features of a river.
- To describe key features of a river system explaining erosion and deposition.
- To describe the way in which rivers are used.
- To explain the impact of damming rivers.

Key Information

Rivers in England, at their mouth, will flow into either the: North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel or Atlantic Ocean.

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.

Label the features of this river:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

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10)



Key vocabulary

- Channel: The course in the ground that a river or water flows through.
- Dam: A barrier built to hold back water.
- deposition/deposit: When rocks and other materials that have been eroded are dropped off further along the river.
- Discharge: The amount of water flowing along a river per second.
- Erosion: Rocks and other river materials are picked up by the water and moved to another place along the river.
- Mouth: The point where a river joins the sea.
- Meander: A curve in the river.
- Oxbow Lake – A u-shaped lake.
- Source: The place where a river begins.
- tidal bore: A strong tide from the coast that pushes the river against the current causing waves along the river.
- Tributaries: Rivers that join up with another river.
- Valley: A long ditch in the earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains.

What I have learnt.