Rivers

Year 5

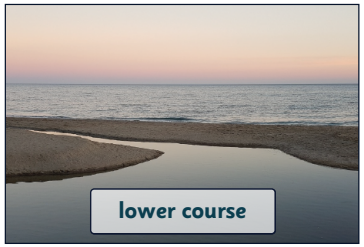
Knowledge Organiser

What is a river?

A river is a moving body of water that drains the land. It flows from its source on high ground, across land and into another body of water such as a lake, the sea, an ocean or even another river. A river flows along a channel with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom.

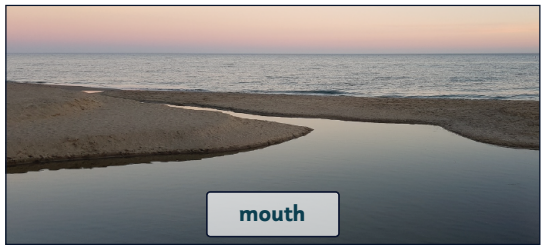
The Rivers Course

A river at different points in its journey: upper, middle and lower course. A river can take on different characteristics at each course. You can see how the river begins its journey in woodlands before passing through towns and finally entering the sea.



A Rivers Journey

The river begins its journey at the source, and eventually, it widens as it passes through the middle course, twisting and turning (meandering) before entering the sea at the river's mouth.

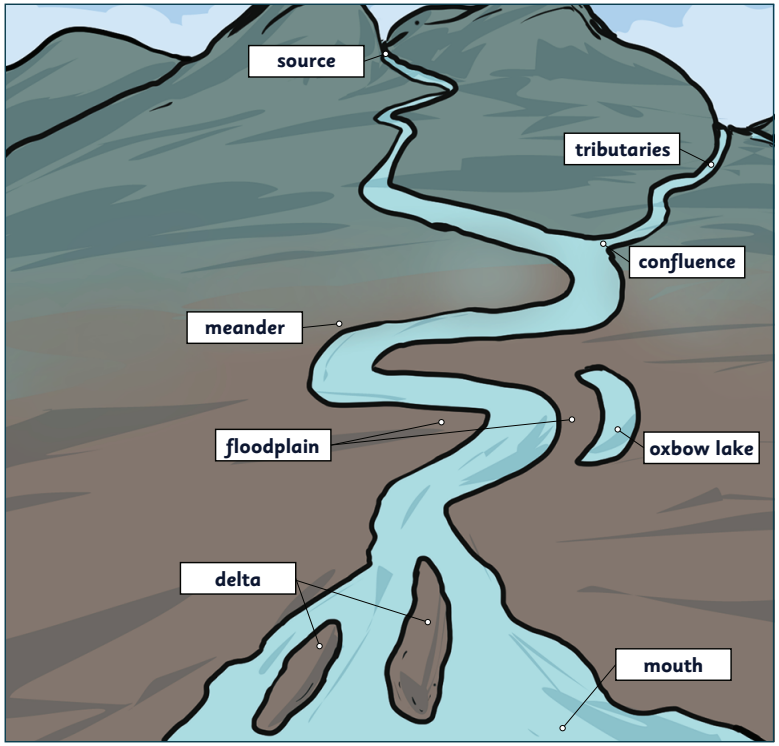


Features of a river

upper course – source, spring, valleys, waterfalls, rapids, streams, shallow water, narrow channel, boulders, rocks, steep banks

middle course – meanders, bends, oxbow lakes, tributaries, deeper water, wider channel, confluence, flatter land

lower course – floodplains, levees, estuaries, mouth, delta, brackish water, sea, flat land



Rivers of the UK

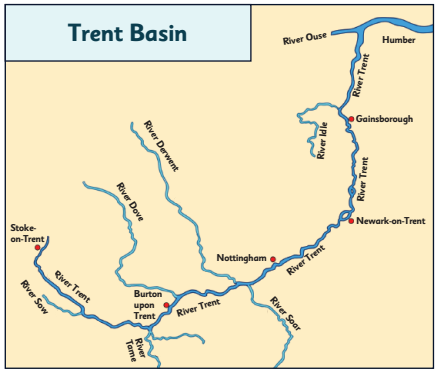
There are hundreds of rivers in the UK.
These are the **longest rivers in England in length order:**

1. River Severn (when you include the upper course in Wales)
2. River Thames
3. River Trent
4. River Wye
5. River Great Ouse

River Trent

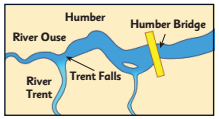
The source of the River Trent is a spring.

Trent Head Well, Biddulph Moor, Staffordshire



This map of the Trent Basin labels the largest rivers that are tributaries of the River Trent.

The River Ouse merges with the River Trent and flows into the Humber. This confluence is called Trent Falls. The Humber flows into the North Sea.



The fieldwork techniques that can be used to study a river are:

- completing annotated drawings and field sketches to record observations
- taking digital photos and annotating them with labels or captions
- collecting quantitative (numerical) data

river depth

river speed

river width

Features along the course of the River Trent

Physical features

- **confluences**
- **meanders**
- **estuary**
- **lakes**
- **floodplains**

Human features

- **canals**
- **reservoirs**
- **weirs**
- **nature reserves**
- **water sports centres**
- **bridges**
- **power stations**

What can we do with the data collected?

When you **analyse** your findings, you should:

- look at all of them carefully
- try to understand the information the data is showing

It's like **solving a puzzle** by figuring out how the **pieces fit together**!

When you **present** your findings to others, you should:

- explain things clearly
- add graphs to make it easier to understand
- clearly label maps, sketches and photographs
- explain what you found out

When you **evaluate** your findings, you should:

- think about how well you carried out your investigation
- think about what you could improve next time