

Year 5 Rivers



KEY VOCABULARY

1	channel	a path of a narrow body of water where water flows
2	estuary	mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
3	gorge	narrow valley with steep, rocky walls through hills/mountains
4	pumping station	facilities including pumps / equipment for pumping water from one place to another, supplying water to canals, removing sewage to processing sites and to drain land
5	tributary	smaller river which joins onto the main channel of a river
6	canal	man-made water channels for flow, vehicles and irrigation
7	basin	land drained by a river and its tributaries
8	floodplain	flat area around a river that often gets flooded
9	irrigation	supply of water to land or crops to help growth
10	bank	the land at the side of the river
11	weir	low dam built across a river to raise the level of water
12	bridge	structure built to allow people to cross a river

KEY RIVERS

1	Nile	6695km (Africa)
2	Amazon	6516km (South America)
3	Yangtze	6380km (Asia) .
4	Mississippi/Missouri	5969km (North America)
5	Murray/Darling	3672km (Australia)
UK RIVERS		
6	Thames	346 km (UK)
7	Severn	354km (U.K)

RIVER JOURNEY

1



SOURCE

The start of a river is its source. It is where it begins its journey. This could be a spring on a hillside, a mountain, a lake, or a bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.

2



WATERFALL

An area where water flows over a vertical drop or a series of steep drops in the course of a river. Soft rock is eroded by water which leaves a hard rock ledge from which the water falls.

3



MEANDERS

A curve in a river which forms a snake-like pattern. The river erodes sediment on the outside of the curves and drops it on the inside of curves due to water moving fastest on the outside of a turn.

4



MOUTH

The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake is known as the mouth of the river. Much of the river's gravel, sand, silt and clay are deposited here.

5



DELTA

A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea at a very slow speed, or often in still/stagnant water. The river slows and drops all the sediment that it was carrying, creating a wide, marshy area.

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Human and Physical Geography		Skills and Fieldwork