



Geography - Water



Year 5
Autumn Term

Key Learning

Rivers - A river is the path that water takes as it flows along a channel downhill with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom. If there is lots of rain, snow or melting ice, rivers often overflow beyond the top of their banks and begin to flow onto floodplains at either side.

Erosion and Deposition - Erosion is when materials, like soil or rocks, are moved by water. All these materials are called sediments. Deposition is when those sediments are deposited, or dropped off, in a different place. When rivers are flowing fast, they knock bits of earth from the banks and bed of the river (its sides and bottom) and carry it downstream with them.

Drinking Water - Rivers, lakes or reservoirs may sometimes look clean but they are often filled with bacteria which can make you sick. It is therefore treated to make sure it meets safe drinking standards before being pumped to homes.

Sampling and Research - Water sampling is the process of taking a water for testing. It is also used to test the health of the river and to find out if pollution, such as chemical from farming, are present.

Dams - A dam is a barrier that stops or restricts the flow of water or underground streams. Reservoirs created by dams not only prevent floods but also provide water for activities such as irrigation, drinking water and industrial use.

Key Vocabulary

channel	A path of a narrow body of water where water flows.
estuary	Mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream.
gorge	Narrow valley with steep, rocky walls through hills/mountains.
River Severn	Longest river in the U.K. (354km) through the city of Bristol.
River Thames	346km long river running through the city of London.
canal	Man-made water channels for flow, vehicles and irrigation.
basin	Land drained by a river and its tributaries.
floodplain	Flat area around a river that often gets flooded.
irrigation	Supply of water to land or crops to help growth.
bank	The land at the side of the river.
evaporation	The process of turning from liquid into vapour.
condensation	Water which collects as droplets on a cold surface when humid air is in contact with it.

World's Longest Rivers

-  Nile - 6695km (Africa)
-  Amazon - 6516km (South America)
-  Yangtze - 6380km (Asia)
-  Mississippi/Missouri - 5969km (North America.)
-  Murray/Darling - 3672km (Australia)

The Nile River flows from south to north through eastern Africa. It begins in the rivers that flow into Lake Victoria (located in modern-day Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya), and empties into the Mediterranean Sea more than 6,600 km (4,100 miles) to the north, making it one of the longest river in the world.



The rivers in Britain have been major sources of communication and travel since ancient times. The Romans reached what is now London by sailing down the Thames. Rivers and a series of canals built to connect some of them were important for transporting goods and raw materials during the Industrial Revolution. Rivers also acted as borders between people and served as boundaries between geographical and administrative areas.