

Knowledge Organiser – Rivers

Year 3 Geography Spring term

Key vocabulary

deposition	The process where material being transported by a river is put down.
erosion	The process that wears away the river bed and banks.
lake	A large area of water surrounded by land
meander	A winding curve or bend in a river.
river	A large amount of fresh water flowing continuously in a long line across land.
source	The beginning of a stream of water.
stream	A small body of flowing water.
tributary	Where one river meets another and merge together.
Water Cycle	The continuous recycling process of water.



What you should already know

The UK is divided into four countries and what these are.

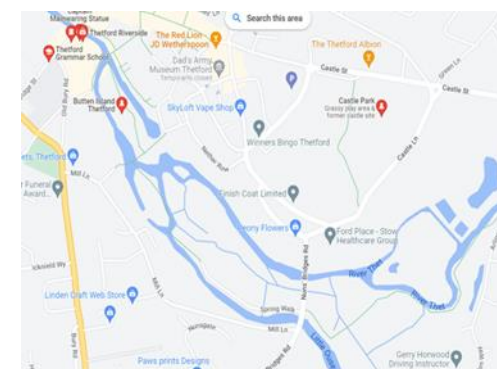
Major cities of the UK, for example London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast.

The UK is an island and there are different bodies of water around it: **English Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean.**

Where the land meets the sea is called the **coast** and the features of a **coastal region**.

The seven continents of the world and that the UK is in **Europe**.

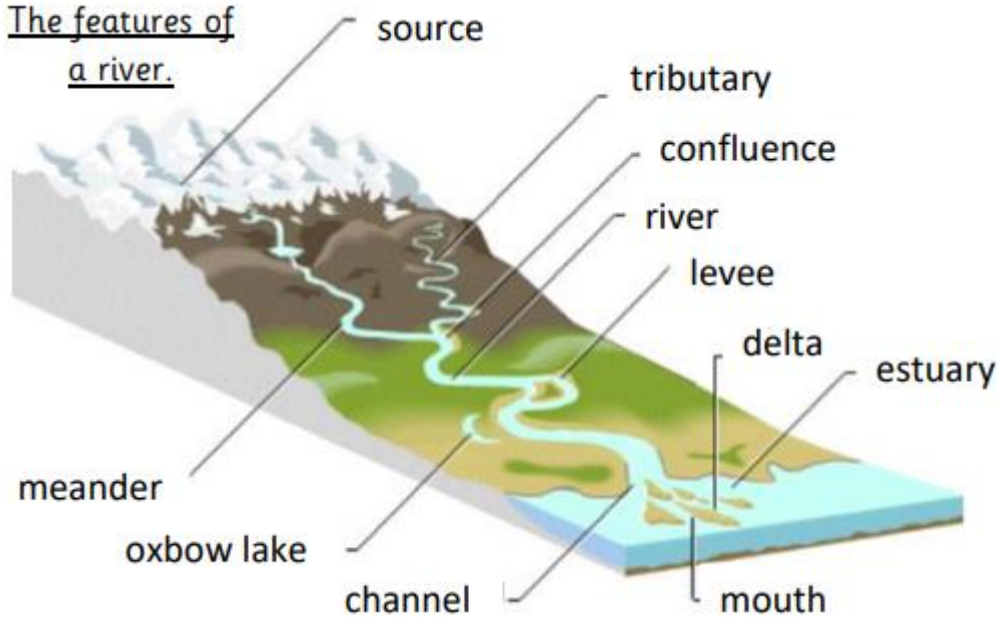
The River Thames is a well-known river that is in London. **The Loch Ness** is a large body of water in **Scotland**.



1. River Nile in Africa. The longest river in the world. 2. River Severn – the longest river in UK.

3. Our local rivers in Thetford are the river Thet and river Little Ouse.

The features of a river.



The features of a river

Rivers usually begin in upland areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow **downhill**. They always flow downhill because of gravity. They then flow across the land - **meandering** - or going around objects such as hills or large rocks. They flow until they reach another body of water

As rivers flow, they **erode** the land. Over a long period of time rivers create valleys, or gorges and canyons if the river is strong enough to erode rock. They take the sediment and carry it along with them.

Small rivers are usually known as **streams**, brooks or creeks. If they flow from underground, they are called springs.

Water cycle

1. **Water evaporates into the air.** The sun heats up water on land, in rivers, lakes and seas and turns it into water vapour. The water vapour rises into the air.
2. **Water vapour condenses into clouds.** Water vapour in the air cools down and changes back into tiny drops of liquid water, forming clouds.
3. **Water falls as precipitation.** The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the ground in the form of rain or snow.
4. **Water returns to the sea.** Rain water runs over the land and collects in lakes or rivers, which take it back to the sea. The cycle starts all over again.

