



# What are rivers, and how are they formed?



## Geography – Y5 – Lesson 1

### Geographical Knowledge and Concept

Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human and Physical Geography  
Place, Space, Scale, Physical and Human Processes

### Resources

- Activity worksheets
- Challenge worksheet
- PPT with video link
- Pre-assessment mind map
- Whiteboard and pens

### Teaching Input

- **What are the features of my local river?** – Go through the key questions and the geographical knowledge and concepts used to answer those questions.
- **Key vocabulary for this lesson** – Go through the key vocabulary and their definitions. Have any of the children heard these words before? Did they already know their meanings?
- **Pre-assessment mind map** – Children are to use the mind map on their pre-assessment worksheets to write down everything they already know about rivers and their features. Children have completed an investigation into the countries, cities and geographical features of the UK and their region in Y3. They can write keywords or sentences or draw pictures and diagrams. Take feedback from the class and make a class mind map with their ideas. Ask them if they can think of any questions they want answered throughout the unit. Let them write these down on their worksheets so you can revisit them at the end of the unit and ensure they've been answered.
- **What is a river?** – Introduce Charlotte. Choose a child to be Charlotte and let them read what she says about rivers. Explain the information on the slide about how rivers are formed.
- **Let's discuss** – Children are to discuss the questions on the slide with their learning partners, in groups or as a class. Take feedback from the class before the answers are revealed on the following two slides.
- **What are the courses of a river?** – Children are to watch the video via the link on the slide which explains how a river is formed. Make sure they have a pen and some paper and encourage them to take full notes for their workbooks as they will need the information for future tasks within the lesson.
- **Let's recap** – Children are to discuss the courses of a river with their learning partner, in groups or as a class using the keywords to prompt them. Take feedback from the class.
- **Matching activity** – Children are to match the courses, features and definitions of a river. Take feedback from the class before the answers are revealed on the following slide.
- **True or false activity** – Children are to read the statements on the slide with their learning partners, in groups or as a class and decide whether they are true or false. Take feedback from the class before the answers are revealed on the following slide.
- **Activity 1** – Children are to complete their activity 1 worksheet by labelling each river feature correctly.
- **Challenge** – Children are to use a paper or online map to study a river that passes near their home town. Children to answer the questions on the challenge worksheet.

### LA

Begin to explain what rivers are.  
Begin to explain the process of the formation of rivers.

### MA

Be able to explain what rivers are.  
Be able to explain the process of the formation of rivers.

### HA

Be able to confidently explain what rivers are.  
Be able to confidently explain the process of the formation of rivers.

What local rivers do you know? What features of these rivers have you identified?

### Self-assessment

I can explain what rivers are.  
I can explain the process of how rivers are formed.  
I can recognise the features of each course of a river.

### Key Vocabulary

**erosion** – moving water or wind causing tiny pieces of the Earth's surface to be moved from one place to another

**source** – the point at which a river starts

**upper course** – the first stage of a river, often located on high ground

**middle course** – the second stage of a river, where the land is flatter and the river wider

**lower course** – the land is flat, and the river is at its widest

**valley** – an area that lies between ranges of hills or mountains that a river flows through

**channel** – the river bed and banks in which a river flows

**silt** – solid, dust-like sediment that water, ice and wind transport and deposit

**tributaries** – small streams that join the larger river

**meander** – the natural bend in a river

**oxbow lake** – a section of a meander that becomes isolated from the main river channel and eventually dries out

**mouth** – the point where the river ends

**estuary** – the point where the river meets the sea in the lower course

**floodplain** – a flat area surrounding a river or stream

**delta** – a wetland area that forms as river waters empty into a larger body of water

### Assessment Questions

What is a river?  
What is the process of river formation?  
What are the features of a river's upper, middle and lower courses?