



# RIVERS

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Year 6



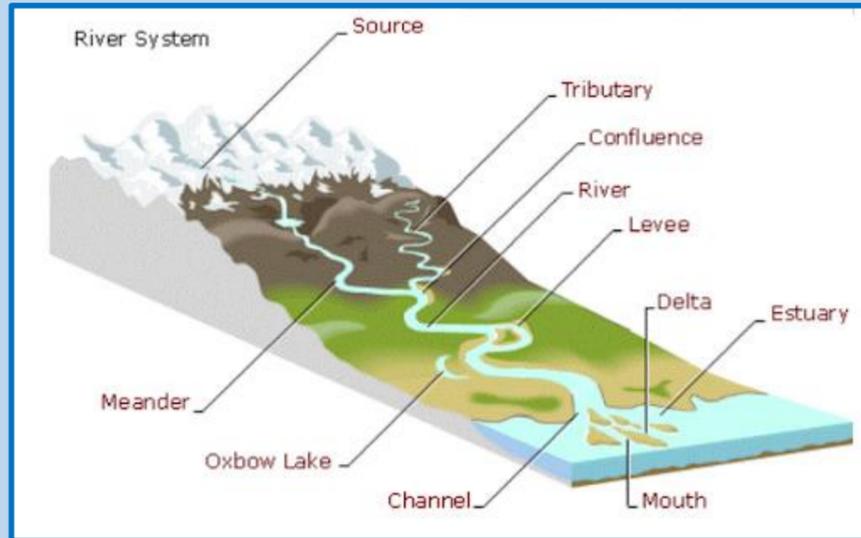
### A labelled diagram of a river's course

#### Rivers

Rivers are natural streams of water that flow along a channel to another body of water.

It is split into 3 courses: Lower, middle and upper.

Rivers can also be called streams, brooks, creeks, tributaries, courses, waterways, or if you live in Scotland, it's a burn, or in England it's a beck. Rivers can be found all over the world on every continent. Most rivers are fresh water rivers, although many flow into salt water.



### Key vocabulary for the geographical knowledge of rivers

<b>Source</b>		Where a river starts its journey – usually in the mountains or hills.	<b>Where?</b> The beginning of a river	<b>Key Fact:</b> They flow downwards
<b>Tributary</b>		A river or a stream that is flowing into a larger river or lake.	<b>How?</b> A river grows by more water being pushed in by tributaries	<b>Key Fact:</b> The channel's bottom is called a bed, and the sides of the river are called banks.
<b>Meander</b>		A series of curves or loops in a river caused by river or a stream swinging from side to side as it flows across a flood plain.	<b>How?</b> The water flow erodes the ground away	<b>Key Fact:</b> The opening credits of EastEnders features a meander
<b>Confluence</b>		The junction of two rivers of similar size as they merge into one.	<b>Where?</b> Two rivers join	<b>Key Fact:</b> They are often different colours
<b>Levee</b>		A natural or man-made embankment built to prevent the over flow of a river.	<b>Why?</b> To avoid flooding in a storm	<b>Key Fact:</b> A levee on the Mississippi river broke and flooded 80% of New Orleans.
<b>Oxbow Lake</b>		A U shaped lake that forms when a wide meander is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water.	<b>Why?</b> When the curve is too tight of a meander	<b>Key Fact:</b> They are still lakes and have no river flow
<b>Channel</b>		The main part of a river, the trench that flows for most of the year.	<b>How?</b> Erosion allows the water to travel	<b>Key Fact:</b> The bottom of a channel is called a bed.
<b>Delta</b>		A landform made from the sediments of the river before it enters the sea.	<b>What?</b> Sediment is the earth that the river has carried	<b>Key Fact:</b> The Ganges in India has the largest delta
<b>Estuary</b>		The tidal mouth of a large river	<b>Where?</b> The tide meets a stream	<b>Key Fact:</b> This water is called brackish water. Only certain types of fish and plants can live in this water.
<b>Mouth</b>		The end of the rivers journey where it most commonly meets the sea or another large river.	<b>Where?</b> The end of the river's journey	<b>Key Fact:</b> Almost half of the water on the planet is drained into the Atlantic Ocean

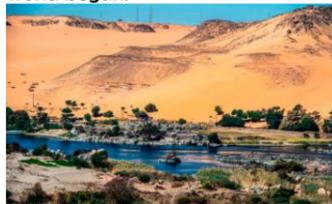
### Famous rivers around the world

#### The longest river in the world

##### The Nile

The River Nile is about 6,670 km (4,160 miles) in length and is the longest river in Africa and in the world. It originates in Burundi, south of the equator, and flows northward through northeastern Africa, eventually flowing through Egypt and finally draining into the Mediterranean Sea. Although it is generally associated with Egypt, only 22% of the Nile's course runs through Egypt.

In Egypt, the River Nile creates a fertile green valley across the desert. It was by the banks of the river that one of the oldest civilizations in the world began.



#### The shortest river in the world

##### The Roe

The Roe River runs from Giant Springs to the Missouri River near Great Falls, Montana, United States. The Roe River is only 201 feet (61 m) long at its longest constant point, and had been named as the World's Shortest River by the Guinness book of World Records in 1989 before Guinness eliminated the shortest river category.

A school teacher and her class petitioned for this river (which at the time was nameless) to be recognized as before the D river in Oregon was recognised as the shortest river at 440 feet (130m)



#### The busiest river in the world

##### The Yangtze

The Yangtze stretches from a glacier on the border of Tibet to Shanghai. It's China's biggest river and the world's third longest river; stretching 6,300 km (3,900 miles). It passes through the spectacular Yangtze Gorges, which are noted for their natural beauty, and flows into the East China Sea

China has harnessed it for power and navigation with the world's biggest hydro-electric power station dam and has now become the busiest river in the world with over 360,000 ships working along its channels transporting goods such as coal



#### The most diverse river

##### The Amazon

The Amazon river, although missing out on the longest river in the world title (6,000km ~4,000miles) it is the largest with the amount of water that passes through its channels. On average 120,000 cubic meters (about 20 swimming pools' worth) of water flows out of its mouth every second.

The Amazon River can be seen to change color along its length, with black and white waters sometimes flowing distinctly side by side until they merge many kilometers downstream as it passes through the most diverse ecosystem in the world.



**The Upper course:** Steep sided valley and thin channel



**The Middle Course:** Valley floor developing and wider channel



**The Lower Course:** Wide floodplains and deep channels, many more levees

