



Leeds East
Primary Partnership
A member of LEPS
Cross Gates
Primary School

Rivers



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Year Group: 6

Subject Focus: Geography

Term: Autumn 2

Key facts

- The longest river in the world is the River Nile (Africa).
- Although the Nile is the longest, the Amazon River holds the most water.
- The longest river in the UK is the River Severn. It is a whopping 220miles (354km) long!
- The longest river entirely in England is the River Thames (located in London).
- The longest river in Europe is the Volga River located in Russia.
- The deepest river in the world is the Congo River in Africa.
- Major rivers of the world include: Nile, Amazon, Mississippi, Congo, Ganges, Volga, Yangtze and Murray.
- Rivers like the Severn and Trent were used as 'motorways' of the past. Used to transport coal and iron before the Industrial Revolution.



The upper course: rain falling on higher ground collects in channels and flows downwards forming a stream. This increases in size and forms a river. The river flows quickly here and runs through steep-sided valleys. Features - waterfalls

The middle course: fast flowing water causes erosion making the river deeper and wider. Features – meanders.

The lower course: rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. River deposits the eroded material that has been carried. River banks have shallower sides. Features – floodplains, deltas, estuaries.

Erosion involves the wearing away of rock. Rivers erode the riverbank and bed. Material carried by the river is broken down into small, rounder, and smoother pieces.

Transportation is when material is picked up by the river and moved downstream.

Deposition is when the river drops its load. This is usually when the river loses energy.

Key words:

Confluence	Occurs when two or more flowing bodies of water join together to form a single channel.
Estuary	Where rivers and streams meet the sea.
Floodplains	This is a large, flat area of land that is formed by erosion and deposition.
Levee	A raised bank on the side of a river.
Meander	A bend in the river.
Mouth	Where a river flows into the sea, a lake or any other larger body of water.
Oxbow Lake	Is formed when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing, U-shaped body of water.
River Deltas	A wetland area that forms as river waters empty into a larger body of water.
Source	Where the river begins.
Tributary	a stream or river that flows into and joins a main river.

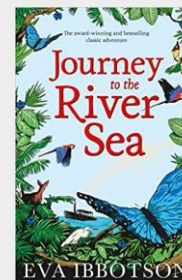
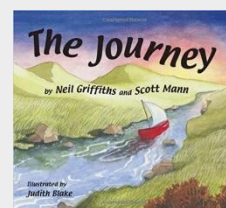
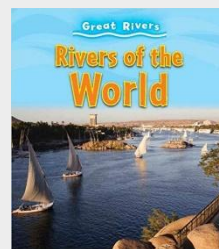
Did you know?

- The Amazon River is home to unique pink river dolphins that change colour as they age.
- The banks of the Nile were the birthplace of the Ancient Egyptian civilization, which relied on the river's annual floods to provide fertile soil for crops.
- The mighty Colorado River in the USA carved out the Grand Canyon over millions of years.
- In 1858, the River Thames in London was so polluted and smelly that it caused a historic event called "The Great Stink," leading to the creation of a new sewer system.
- **Subterranean Rivers:** Some rivers flow entirely underground through secret cave systems

Exciting books/ web links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks1--ks2-rivers/z6qsf4j>

[https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/rivers-\(1\)/journey-of-a-river/](https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/rivers-(1)/journey-of-a-river/)



Parents as partners:

- Encourage your child to discover interesting facts about the River Aire.
- Together, visit various parts of the River Aire in Leeds.
- Create a word search or crossword about Leeds and the River Aire.
- Create a fact file or PowerPoint about the rivers of the UK / rivers of the world.
- Use an atlas or google earth to locate the rivers.
- Find evidence of erosion and deposition on local rivers.