

Knowledge Organiser Year 6: What is a river?

Key objective

Understand the main physical and human features and functions of rivers and the impact that river flooding can have on local environments and communities.



The River Axe in Dorset, Somerset and Devon



The River Thames at the Isle of Dogs in London



Rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna in Bangladesh

Important things I will know, understand and be able to do:

- 1) How the course and physical features of a typical river change from source to mouth and why these physical features are formed.
- 2) What is an estuary and what are the main physical and human uses of estuaries? Why estuaries are such an important habitat and ecosystem for wildlife.
- 3) What is the water cycle and how rivers play an important part in the water cycle.
- 4) Where the famous meander 'Isle of Dogs' is located along the River Thames and how and why the land uses and economic activities of the Isle of Dogs has changed over time.
- 5) Why the port and docks of London declined and closed very quickly in the 1950s and 1960s.
- 6) Where in the world Bangladesh is located and the rivers that flow through it. Why Bangladesh suffers from serious annual river flooding and what is being done to manage and control river flooding.

Fieldwork: How to collect data at various points along a stream to show graphically how the river changes. How to create a simple cross section across a river

Visit to Douglas Valley

Important Vocabulary I will learn

Landscape	everything that can be seen when looking at a place
Hazard	something natural or human that is a risk and source of danger
Course	the path or route along which a river flows
Estuary	the place where a river widens as it enters the sea and fresh and salty water mix
Profile	the slope along or across a river
Habitat	the natural home of a living thing such as a plant or animal
Ecosystem	the community of living things to be found in a particular area which depend upon each other
Pollution	something added to the environment that is harmful to living things
Water cycle	the path that all water takes as it moves around the Earth and its atmosphere
Confluence	the meeting point of two rivers where one flows into the other
Port	a place along a coastline where ships load and unload cargo
Dock	a closed in area with gates at a port to keep water out where ships are loaded or unloaded
Financial	businesses that deal with money rather than products
Commercial	something involving making products or providing services to make money
Monsoon	the wind that brings heavy rain to many countries in South East Asia in June each year