



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School -Willow Class Rivers

Gospel Value Stewardship

What I should know already-

a mountain is higher and steeper than a hill, generally over 600m tall and formed by movement of the earth's crust.

Key Vocabulary

Key Knowledge

- On a river, the courses are not clearly defined, but gradually merge from one to the other.
- In the upper course precipitation feeds the emerging river, additionally rivers can begin as snow melts off hills and mountains.
- While rivers typically start on high land, some also have their source in lowland valleys.
- In the middle course, rivers become wider and deeper. While the water is less obviously turbulent than in the upper course (which can often give the upper course the appearance of fast flow) in the middle course the water is actually moving with greater velocity.
- With a wider river bed and deeper water there is also less friction. As such the river has a greater energy to erode the river bank.
- Many rivers have estuaries, which are characterised by wide, flat land, where the river flows into the sea. Deposition occurs at the estuary, but at high tide this is carried away by the sea.
- Deltas are formed where the tides are not strong enough to wash the sediment away. There are no large deltas around the coasts of the UK.

Source

Upper course

Middle course

Lower course

Channel

V-shaped valley

Tributaries

Erosion

Transportation

Deposition

Undercutting

Meander

Oxbow lake

Mouth

Estuary

Delta

Precipitation

Surface runoff

Throughflow

The point at which a river starts.

The first stage of river, often located on high ground.

The second stage of a river, where the land is flatter and the river wider.

The land is flat and the river is at its widest.

The river bed and banks in which water flows.

The river in the upper course flows through steep gradients

Small streams that join the larger river.

Material is cut away from river beds and banks by the water
When eroded material is taken downstream.

Material is 'dropped' or deposited when the river no longer has the capacity to carry it.

A feature of erosion when the river cuts away at the bank.

The natural bend in a river.

A section of a meander that becomes isolated from the main river channel and eventually dries out.

The point where the river ends.

In the lower course, where the river meets the sea.

Characterised by mud and sediment deposits, deltas are formed at the mouth of a river when the incoming tide cannot wash them away.

Precipitation is rain, hail, sleet and snow. It is important that pupils do not think that the only source of fresh water is rain.
When precipitation runs over the surface of the land.

When water infiltrates the layer of soil and flows through it, rather than overland.