

Rivers

Overview:

Rivers usually begin in upland areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow downhill. They always flow downhill because of gravity.

They then flow across the land - meandering - or going around objects such as hills or large rocks. They flow until they reach another body of water.

The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.

Meander - a curve in the river



Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.

The Amazon River and the River Dart:

- The Amazon River goes through many countries in South America and is incredibly important for the local communities that surround it
- The River Dart is in Devon and is much smaller.

How Do We Use Rivers?

Leisure e.g. fishing	+	Controlled population of fish
	-	May leave litter and pollute the water
Industry e.g. factories	+	Sections of rivers maintained
	-	Chemicals pollute the water and habitats
Tourism e.g. walking routes	+	Conservation and education about local wildlife
	-	Too many people near wildlife habitats

Disciplinary thinking skills I will use to understand what I learn

Synthesise	Bring together a range of ideas and facts from different sources to develop an argument or explanation
Explain	Demonstrate understanding of how or why something is the way it is as a result of synthesising information.
Empathise	The capacity to place oneself impartially in another's position to better understand their motives, decisions and actions (even if they are not shared values).
Informed conclusion	A knowledgeable summing up of the main points or issues about something.
Reasoned judgement	A personal view or opinion about something supported by factual evidence.
Justify	Give reasons to show or prove what you feel to be right or reasonable
Apply	The transfer of knowledge and/or skills learned in one context to help make sense of a different situation
Evaluate	Weigh up and judge the relative importance of something in relation to counter ideas and arguments.
Critique	Review and examine something critically particularly to gain an awareness of its limitations and reliability as evidence
Hypothesise	Come up with an idea, question or theory that can be investigated to see whether it has any validity or truth.

Key vocabulary:

River
Waterway
Source
Tributary
Floodable
Channel
Riverbank
Flow
Mouth
Amazon
Dart
Deposit
Valley
Dam