

Year 5 Geography Unit - Go with the flow

Geography Skills



Context

Rivers are everywhere and are essential to quickly drain rainwater from the land to prevent boggy ground and floods. They come in a variety of sizes from our local Rea to the mighty Nile. Humans must live alongside rivers and learn to use them responsibly and also to control their flow to prevent floods.

Key vocabulary and places

River - a natural stream of water, flowing in a channel to join a larger river, lake or the sea.

Water cycle - the natural process of evaporation and condensation, causing precipitation on the land.

River Severn - the longest river in the UK that starts in Wales and ends in England (354km / 220 miles)

Upper course - usually higher land where rain falls and falls streams and narrow valleys form.

Middle course - the middle part of the river length where the valleys are wider, through erosion, and meanders form.

Lower course - the last part of the river where it flows slowly through flat lands and deposits the material it has eroded higher up its course.

Erosion - when a river's water and the rocks in its channel wear away at the land, changing its shape.

Deposition - when eroded material falls out of the river's flow when the river does not have enough energy to transport it anymore.

Meander - the curves and bends a river develops in its middle course.

Sediment - the material eroded by the river (gravel, sand, mud...) that gets deposited.

Rea, Thame, Cole are all rivers in the West Midlands (they flow into the **Trent**). The **Stour** flows into the River Severn.

Counties - areas of the country e.g. Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Birmingham..

Floods - When the quantity of water flowing in a river channel is so high that the water overtops the banks and flows onto the surrounding land. There are lots of ways to protect towns from flooding.

River pollution - humans have to be careful not to spoil the fresh water of the river with litter, chemicals from farms and even things like milk. Pollution spoils a natural resource and harms the environment.

- Compare maps with aerial photographs.
- Draw a sketch map with symbols and a key
- Ordnance Survey (OS) is a widely used mapping company in UK.
- You should be able to use a key to recognise symbols on an OS map of Birmingham
- You should be able to draw a sketch map using some OS symbols.
- FIELDWORK: Begin to use primary (own observations) and secondary sources (the observations of others) of evidence.
- FIELDWORK: Analyse evidence and draw conclusions



Something to reflect on...

If the sun stopped shining, would the rivers eventually stop flowing? Why or why not?

What are the best and worst ways to protect a town from flooding? Why?

How could a polluted river be returned to its natural state?