

Rivers

- Large numbers of settlements were formed on or near to a river as it allowed easy trade and transport.
- The river source is located in the mountains and is the beginning of a river. This starts as a result of rain, melting ice or an underground stream.
- Tributaries join together as streams and rivers to the main river increasing its size and the quantity of water travelling along it.
- As the river moves away from the mountains, the gradient at which it travels along decreases; the land is a lot flatter and as a result may flood when water levels rise. These flood plains are rich in nutrients and are often used to grow crops.
- Rivers don't often travel in a straight line, they tend to meander towards the coast a number of bends turns in their route.
- The river mouth is where the river meets the sea and where an estuary often occurs.
- Flood defences are often constructed around towns and cities, either permanent or temporary - to be used after heavy rainfall when the water levels rise.

River case study; The Nile



The Nile is a major north-flowing river in northeastern Africa, and is the longest river in Africa (6,650km). It originates in Burundi, south of the equator, and flows northward through northeastern Africa, eventually flowing through Egypt and finally draining into the Mediterranean Sea.

Local river; River Trent



The River Trent is the third-longest river in the United Kingdom (298km). Its source is in Staffordshire on the southern edge of Biddulph Moor. It flows through and drains most of the metropolitan central and northern Midlands south and east of its source north of Stoke-on-Trent.

Linked Explorer - Levison Wood



Major Levison James Wood is a British Army officer and explorer from Forsbrook, Staffordshire. He is best known for his extended walking expeditions in Africa, Asia and Central America. From 2013-2014, Levison walked the length of the river Nile - an expedition of 4,250 miles that took nine months.

Overview

- Use maps and atlases to locate rivers and mountains.
- Identify key physical features.
- Examine how humans use rivers and mountains.
- Compare and contrast rivers and mountains from the UK and around the World.

Key vocabulary

Waterfall	Sudden descent of a river or stream.
Meander	A slow bend in the river
Gorge	A narrow, steep-sided valley
Floodplain	Flat ground near a river that floods when the river water rises
Dam	A barrier constructed to hold water back.
Source	Where a river begins
Mountain range	Single mountains joined together
Landslide	Large fall of soil or rocks down a mountainside
Erode	Slowly wear away
Altitude	Height of a mountain measured above sea level.
Summit	the highest point or part.

Longest river	Highest mountain
Amazon River 7,000km	Mount Everest 8,800km

Mountains

- Mountains form when plates bump together forcing the rock between the plates upwards and folding on itself creating fold mountains.
- Sometimes great pressure against the crust cause cracks in the rocks (faults) where huge blocks of rocks may be forced up.
- Weather can erode mountains; cracks that form can fill with water that freezes. This ice widens cracks and rocks split and crumble.
- Few people live on high mountains because the cold temperatures and poor soil make it difficult to grow crops. Steep slopes also make building houses and travel difficult.
- Farmland is sometimes made by cutting steps (terraces) into slopes.
- Terraces stop rain washing away from the soil and farmers can then grow food like rice and potatoes as well as keep sturdy animals like goats and sheep.
- The lowest slopes of mountains are often warm enough for certain trees to grow and is known as the forest zone.
- Above the tree line it is too cold for plants to grow - at certain altitudes there is snow all year round (this is known as the snow line).

Mountain case study; Mount Everest



Mount Everest is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas. The China-Nepal border runs across its summit point.

UK Mountain: Ben Nevis



Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the British Isles, the United Kingdom, Great Britain, Scotland and the historic county of Inverness-shire. The summit is 1,345 metres above sea level.

Linked explorer - Sir Edmund Hillary



Sir Edmund Percival Hillary was a New Zealand mountaineer, explorer, and philanthropist. On 29 May 1953, Hillary and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers confirmed to have reached the summit of Mount Everest. They were part of the ninth British expedition to Everest, led by John Hunt.