

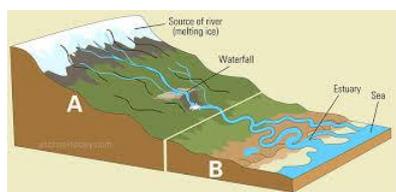
## Knowledge Organiser for Year 6 – Rivers

**Big question: How are rivers formed?**

### National curriculum specification

Name and locate geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers)

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.



### Key facts/figures

Longest rivers in UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Severn (220 miles)</li> <li>- Thames (215 miles)</li> <li>- Trent (185 miles)</li> <li>- Great Ouse (143 miles)</li> <li>- Wye (134 miles)</li> <li>- Avon (95 miles)</li> </ul>
Longest rivers in the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nile (4123 miles)</li> <li>- Amazon (3977 miles)</li> <li>- Congo (2920 miles)</li> <li>- Mississippi (2348 miles)</li> <li>- Ob (2268 miles)</li> </ul>
River origins	Rivers start at the source and can flow into the sea (called the mouth) or into other rivers or lakes. Most rivers start in high ground or in mountains.
Upper course	Rain falling in highland areas flows downwards and collects in channels, forming a stream. As the stream continues to run downhill, it's joined by other streams and increases in size and speed. The point where two rivers join is called a confluence.
Middle course	As a river reaches its middle course, the fast flowing water causes erosion, which makes it deeper and wider. The river erodes left and right, forming horse-shoe like loops called meanders.
Lower course	In the lower course, a river is in flatland and flows slowly. The force of the water is lower than in the other stages, so the river deposits all the bits of eroded land it has been carrying with it.

Erosion and deposition	Freeze-thaw weathering creates scree slopes and the energy from rivers erodes the ground. Further downstream, deposition takes place and, over time, the landscape becomes transformed.
River use	We use rivers for: drinking, transportation, fishing and leisure sports. However, constant littering and waste can contribute to river pollution.
Dams	Dams are a barrier built to hold back water to prevent flooding. Water held behind a dam is usually held in a reservoir.

Key vocabulary/Tier 3	
River	A naturally flowing watercourse, moving freshwater from source to sea.
Flood	The point at which the amount of water in the river channel exceeds capacity, causing the river to burst its banks.
Groundwater	Water held underground in soil or rocks
Precipitation	Any liquid that falls from our atmosphere, including rainfall, snowfall and hail.
Mouth	The place where the river enters the ocean.
Source	The origin of the river - where it begins.
Condensation	Water that collects on a cold surface when humid air (air full of moisture) comes into contact.
Confluence	The junction of two rivers.
Evaporation	A change in state from liquid to gas. This happens to water as heat from the sun causes water to turn to gas, creating water vapour.
Meander	A natural bend in the river caused by different rates of erosion and deposition.
Erosion	The removal of sediment that occurs when the river has high levels of energy.
Deposition	The dropping of sediment by the river when the river has lower levels of energy.
Infiltration	The rate at which the ground will absorb water. Different types of ground will have different infiltration rates.