

What is a river?

Almost every river in the world flows from the land to the sea – from its source where it begins in higher ground, such as hills and mountains, to its mouth in lower ground along the coast

'Axe Source to Mouth Tour' on Google Earth with the OS map extracts show many human land uses by the river. For example 01.03: Bakers Mill at 468045 and 05.13: Sewage works and water treatment plant at 341048

A river returns excess precipitation from the land to the sea, where it originated. Within the hydrological or water cycle, water in a river is collected mostly from precipitation that has run off the land surface and not been evaporated or absorbed and stored in underlying aquifers (underground layers of rock or soil that store water).

There are a variety of habitats in Holmebrook Valley Park, which is a country park as well as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The Holme Brook runs through the park and provides riparian (water side) habitats for a wide variety of plants, insects and mammals.

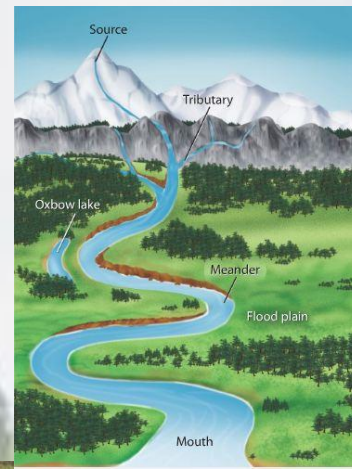
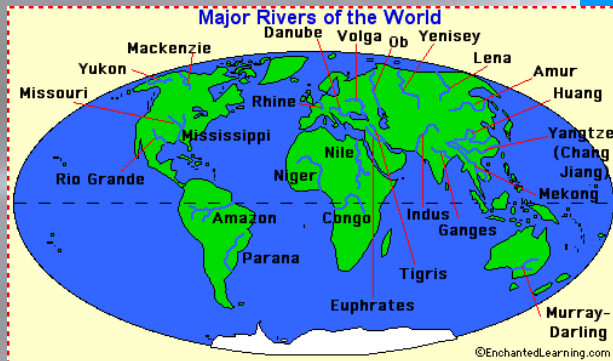
Fieldwork includes a speed of flow investigation, a stream profile measuring activity and a river dip to ascertain the quality of the water.

As the river approaches the sea it becomes much wider with large areas of mud banks on both sides - estuaries are such important places for wildlife especially wading birds that feed on the invertebrates living in the mud banks that are exposed at low tide.

The River Severn is the longest river in the United Kingdom – just a few kilometres longer than the River Thames. It flows into one of the country's largest estuaries situated between Bristol and Cardiff, before entering the Bristol Channel.



Claude Monet's Thames below Westminster 1871



Bedřich Smetana
Czech
composer



Vocabulary

Source is the place from which a river begins to flow.- lakes, bogs, springs, streams, collections of snow or rainwater, glaciers, swamps and other rivers. Sources for rivers are typically found at higher elevations than downstream portions of the river.

Precipitation - drizzle, rain, sleet, snow and hail.

Mouth is the part of a river where the river debouches into another river, a lake, a reservoir, a sea, or an ocean.

Erosion –the water removes soil, rock, or dissolved material from one location in the river, and then transports it to another location

Deposition - when a river enters an area of shallow water and drops rock/sediment

Marina – man made dock to moor boats.

Water/Hydrological cycle – the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth

Estuary - the tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream

Impressionism - a 19th-century art movement characterized by relatively small, thin, yet visible brush strokes, emphasis on light in its changing qualities, inclusion of movement and unusual visual angles.