



YEAR 4 THE ADVENTURE OF RIVERS



WHAT IS A RIVER?

A river is a long, flowing body of water that moves across the land. A river can be wide or narrow and is part of nature. It is very important because it helps to shape the Earth.

THE JOURNEY OF A RIVER

Every river has a beginning. Many rivers start high in the mountains where rain and melting snow create small streams. These streams join together to form a bigger river. The river then flows through valleys, forests, and towns until it reaches a sea or an ocean.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF RIVERS

Rivers have many interesting parts. The edges of a river are called banks. Sometimes, a river makes gentle curves called meanders. In some places, a river spreads out and makes a flat area called a floodplain. Small rivers that join a big river are called tributaries. Near the end of a river, the water may split into many channels to form a delta.

HOW RIVERS CHANGE THE LAND

Rivers are very powerful and can change the land over many years. They carry tiny pieces of rock and soil called sediment. As the river flows, it wears away the land in a process called erosion. When the river slows down, it drops the sediment, which can create new land, such as islands or new riverbanks. This slow process is very important for the Earth.

LIFE AROUND RIVERS

Rivers are not only beautiful but also full of life. Many animals, such as fish and birds, live in or near a river. Plants also grow along the banks. People often live near rivers because they provide water for drinking, farming, and fun. Rivers can make the land around them very pleasant to live in.

FUN FACTS

- The longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn.
- Some rivers travel thousands of kilometres.
- People have used rivers for hundreds of years to travel and trade.

Rivers are an exciting part of physical geography. They help to shape the land and support many living things. Next time you see a river, remember its long journey and all the amazing things that make it special.



FIND OUT MORE...

[BBC Bitesize Explore Rivers](#)

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the name of the process that happens when a river wears away the land?
2. Where do most rivers begin?
3. What is the flat area called that a river sometimes creates near its banks?
4. Why do people often live near rivers?
5. What is a tributary in relation to a river?