



River Deep – Mountain High!

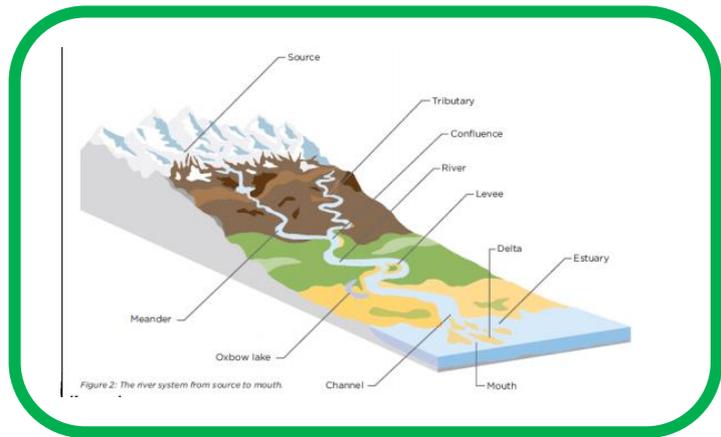
Background Information

A mountain is usually defined as a part of the landscape with steep slopes that rise over 300m. Some mountains are found in groups called ranges, others are isolated summits. Mountains occur more often in oceans than on land; some islands are the peaks of mountains coming out of the water.

A river is a path that water takes as it flows downhill towards another river, a lake or the sea. Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers. In addition to drinking and bathing, rivers were important waterways for trade.

In this unit the children will:

- Know about the local area and begin to appreciate the importance of wider geographical location in understanding places.
- To locate countries in Europe and the world using maps.
- Begin to describe and compare features of different locations and offer explanations for the locations of some of those features.
- Be aware that different places may have both similar and different characteristics.
- Begin to describe physical and human features and begin to offer reasons for observations and opinions about places and environments.
- To describe and understand key aspects of physical geography: rivers and mountains.
- Use skills and evidence to answer a range of geographical questions.
- Begin to investigate answers and use the correct vocabulary to share findings.



Mount Everest – World’s Tallest

Famous River and Mountains to investigate:

Rivers:

- The River Nile
- Amazon River
- Ganges River
- Mississippi River
- Danube River
- Yangtze River
- Volga River
- River Thames

Mountains:

- Ben Nevis
- Mount Washington
- Mount Olympus
- Fitz Roy
- Mount Vesuvius
- Kilimanjaro
- The Matterhorn
- Mount Fuji
- K2
- Mount Everest

Geography skills:

- Locational Knowledge.
- Place knowledge.
- Human and Physical Geography.
- Map work.



Key Vocabulary:

Deposition – a river lays down or drops the sediment or material that it is carrying such as sand, mud and small stones or sticks. This happens on the inside of meanders as the water is flowing slowly.

Erosion – the wearing away by water and rocks constantly rubbing

Floodplain – flat land of the river valley close to the river banks. It is a fertile area of land used for growing crops usually found in the lower course of the river.

Gorge – steep-sided river valley which is very narrow and deep most often with rocky sides. Rivers can be divided into three parts: upper course, middle course and lower course.

Rapids – fast-flowing stretches of water formed where the river surface breaks up into waves because rocks are near to the surface

Face - the “side” of a mountain
Foot - the bottom of the mountain.

Outcrop - a rock formation visible from the surface.

Plateau - an area of flat, high ground.

Ridge - a long, narrow, high section of land

Slope - an area of ground increasing in height

Snow line - above here snow and ice cover the mountain all year.

Summit -the top of a mountain.

Tree line - the highest point forests are found.

Valley- the area of low land between mountains

Key facts:

-**Longest rivers in the world:** Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, Yellow River, Congo River, Parana River

-**Longest rivers in the UK:** Severn, Thames, Trent, Great Ouse, Wye, Tye, Clyde

-**Mountain formation**

-**Fold mountains** occur when tectonic plates collide. The edges of the plates crumple as they are pushed together. The rock of the Earth’s surface is pushed up to create mountains.

-**Fault block mountains** – form when cracks in the Earth’s surface open up and large chunks of rock can be pushed up while others are pushed down. Volcanic mountains are formed around volcanoes.

-**Volcanic mountains** are made of layers of ash and cooled lava.

-**Dome mountains** are smooth and round-looking. They are formed when magma is forced up between the crust and the mantle, but doesn’t ever flow out. The magma makes the land bubble up like a balloon.

-**Plateau mountains** form because of materials being taken away through erosion, which has left deep valleys or gorges next to high cliffs.

-The world is divided into seven major continents: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Antarctica.

-There are mountain ranges on all of the continents, some of which are very high.

-The further up a mountain you travel, the colder it gets. Lots of mountains have snow on the summit all year round.

-All major rivers start in mountain ranges and flow downhill (into another river, a lake or the sea).

-Rivers are natural features in the landscape.

-Canals are man-made.

-Rivers have fresh water flowing in them whereas the sea is salty.



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