



# Rivers

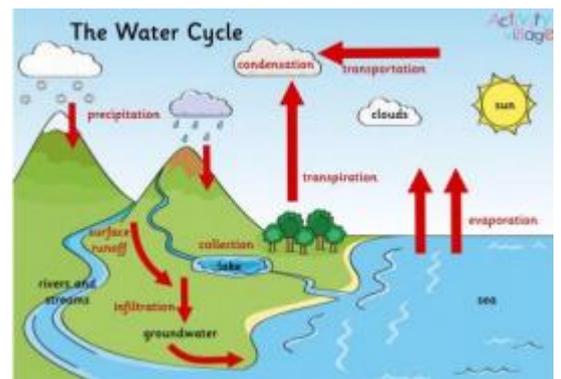
## River's are Amazing!

It is not just rivers themselves which are fascinating – it is the wonderful wildlife that lives in them, too! Rivers provide a home for all kinds of creatures, including insects, amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals and over 10,000 species of fish!

Some of the most fascinating river creatures include Amazon river dolphins (which have pink skin!), electric eels (which stun prey and predators with powerful electric shocks!), freshwater stingrays (which can grow to an enormous 5 metres!) and freshwater turtles, which have been around for 200 million years!

### In this unit the children will:

- Describe the water cycle, explain what a river is and locate the world's longest rivers on a map.
- Describe how rivers are used around the world.
- Identify the stages and features of a river, and the way that land use changes from the source to the mouth.
- Recognise and explain how human activity affects river.
- Recognise and explain how flooding affects communities.
- Identify the key characteristics of one the world's longest rivers.



### Famous Rivers to investigate

#### Rivers:

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

### Geography skills:

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



**Key Vocabulary:**

**river** - a flowing, moving stream of water

**stream** - a small, fast flow of water

**canal** - waterways built by people used for shipping and transport.

**Reservoir** - The store of water that is held back by a dam

**lake** - large bodies of water that are surrounded by land and are not part of an ocean

**sea** - a huge body of salt water

**source** - where a river begins its journey

**channel** - the path of a river

**tributary** - a small river or stream that meets a large river

**mouth** - where the river enters the sea

**confluence** - where two rivers meet

**meander** - a winding bend in the river

**Estuary** - the last section of the river before the sea

**Water cycle** - the journey of water on the Earth

**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, Tyne, Clyde

**Fun Facts about some of the rivers in the UK:**

-River Thames – The Thames flows through London, the capital city, and has played a central role in British history for some 2000 years.

-River Severn – During high tides a wall of water can travel upstream for over 25 miles. This tidal wave is known as the Severn Bore

-River Trent – Is the third longest river in the United Kingdom. It used to be used to mark the boundary border between North and South England.

**Other Fun Facts about rivers:**

-In 2007 a man named Martin Strel swam the entire length of the Amazon river! To complete his amazing jungle journey, Martin swam ten hours a day for 66 days!

-What about the world's deepest river? That's the Congo River in Central Africa. Whilst its true depth remains a mystery, scientists believe the waters run at least 230m deep in parts – deep enough to submerge London's famous clocktower, known as Big Ben, 2.5 times on top of each other!

-Rivers can be all kinds of colours – not just blue, clear or muddy brown as you might expect! In 'blackwater rivers', found in swamps and wetlands, the waters look like strong black tea. And in Colombia, the aquatic plants of Caño Cristales – known as the 'River of Five Colours' – make the waters flow with bright blue, red, black, yellow and green!



**Burlington Junior School – Geography**

**Year 4**





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