

Grange Park Primary School Year 5 Autumn 1 Geography

What a Wonderful World: World rivers and how they impact human lives

Physical Features	
source	The farthest point from the estuary or confluence. The beginning of a river.
estuary	Where water from the river first meets the sea/ocean. This is usually inland, just before the mouth of the river, and is linked to the tides.
tributary	A smaller river or stream that joins a bigger river.
meander	A river that flows in a winding course.
confluence	The junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width.
floodplain	The flat area around a river that often gets flooded when the level of water in the river is high.
delta	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea. The river slows down and drops all the sediment it was carrying.
oxbow lake	A curved lake, formed from a horseshoe bend in a river where the main stream has cut across the narrow point, preventing the river from flowing through it.
mouth	The end of a river; where the river flows into the sea, ocean or lake.
bank	The land at the side of the river.

Key Rivers	
River Thames	The longest river in England, which runs 346 km from its source in a village in Gloucestershire through London and out into the North Sea.
River Nile	The longest river in the world. It travels 6,650 km through 11 countries of the continent of Africa.
Amazon River	The largest river in the world, travelling 6,400 km through Peru, Colombia and Brazil (South America).
River Yangtze	The longest river in Asia, travelling 6,300 km through China.
Murray River	Australia's longest river, travelling 2,508 km across South Australia.
Volga River	The longest river in Europe, travelling 3,531 km across Russia into the Caspian Sea.
River Ganges	Travelling 2,525 km through India and Bangladesh, the River Ganges is the third largest river in the world and a sacred river to Hindus.
River Danube	The second longest river in Europe and travels through the most countries (10).

Key Vocabulary	
vegetation belt	Plant life in a specific area and closely linked to biomes.
sediment	Matter (rocks, soils etc) that settle to the bottom of liquid - in this case rivers.
tidal surge	The rising of the sea, impacting on the estuary.
lock	A short section of a canal or river with gates and a sluice that are used to change the water level to raise and lower boats.
weir	A low dam built across a river to raise the level of water upstream or regulate its flow.
trade	The buying and selling of goods.
topography	The accurate representation of physical features of an area (rivers)
current	The strength and speed of the river. Water always flows downhill. The steeper the ground it, the stronger the current will be.

