



Lowerhouse Junior School

Geography Overview Sheet



Year 4 – How are rivers formed?



Rationale: The Rivers unit will allow the children to find out more about why rivers are so important to the towns and villages that have developed on their banks. They will do this by looking at the features of rivers, and the natural and human ways that rivers change over time. The children will explore the life stories of rivers and will learn the names and locations of the major rivers of the UK and the world.

Substantive Knowledge:

Human and physical geography

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, and the water cycle.

Overview:

Lesson 1: Introduction to Rivers and the Water Cycle - Understand the basic components of rivers and the water cycle.
Lesson 2: How Rivers Are Formed - Explore how rivers are formed and the key stages in their development.
Lesson 3: Mapping Rivers - Learn to label maps with river features and understand their purpose.
Lesson 4: Rivers and Fieldwork - Make links between observed river features and their representation on maps.
Lesson 5: Changes in Rivers Over Time - Understand geographical processes like erosion, deposition, and how they shape rivers.
Lesson 6: Assessment presentation - Use ICT to record and explain how rivers are formed and change over time.

Key Vocabulary

Channel - a path of a narrow body of water where water flows
Estuary - mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
Gorge - narrow valley with steep, rocky walls through hills/mountains
River Severn - Longest river in the U.K. (354km) through the city of Bristol
River Thames - 346km long river running through the city of London
Canal - man-made water channels for flow, vehicles and irrigation
Floodplain - flat area around a river that often gets flooded
Bank - the land at the side of the river
Weir - low dam built across a river to raise the level of water
Bridge - structure built to allow people to cross a river
Tributary - smaller river which joins onto the main channel of a river

Impact/Assessment

Most Children will know: • List the main events in the water cycle • Use the index in an atlas to find rivers • Describe the place in which the source of a river is found • List some features of a river's upper course • List some features of a river's middle course • List some features of a river's lower course • Describe how water erodes a riverbank • Describe how deposition changes the shape of a river • List some ways that rivers are used • List some advantages for different uses of a river • List some disadvantages for different uses of a river • Describe what a dam is • Give the location of one major dam