

Year 3 and 4 Geography – Rivers, Mountains and Coasts Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

Coast: places where the land meets the sea.

Confluence: where two rivers meet (usually of similar width).

Crust: the outermost layer of the Earth, made of solid rock (the Earth has inner layers called the mantle and core). This is the layer upon which we live.

Delta: where river sediment is deposited, usually where the river enters the sea or other body of water.

Estuary: where the freshwater river meets the saltwater ocean.

Meander: the winding curve or bend of a river.

Settlement: a place where people live.

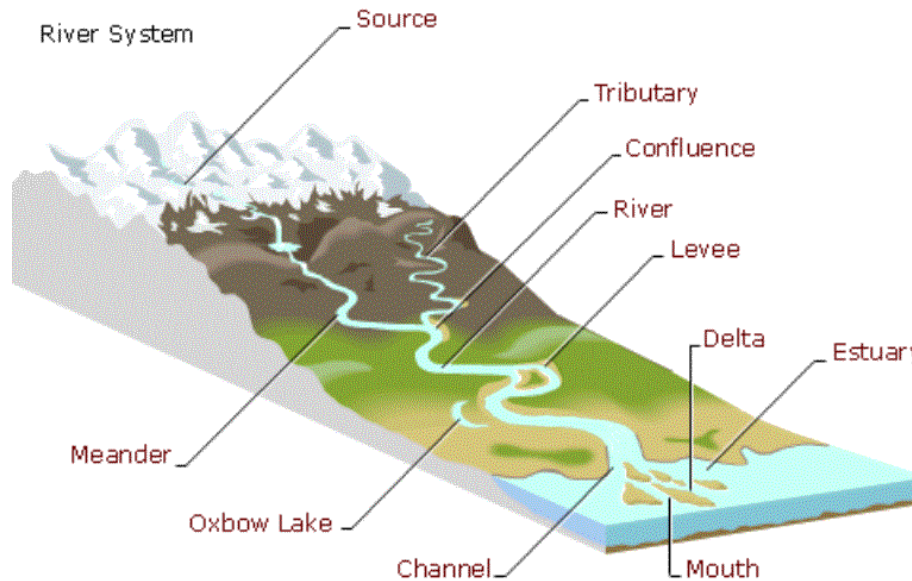
Source: where a river begins.

Tectonic plates: huge slabs of solid rock that make up the Earth's outer layer; they move approximately 1.5cm each year.

Tributary: a freshwater stream that flows into a main river; they do not flow directly into the sea.

What are rivers?

A river is a moving body of water that flows from a source on high ground, across land and then into another body of water, which could be a lake, the sea or another river. The Nile and the Amazon are two of the world's longest rivers. The longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn.



What are mountains?

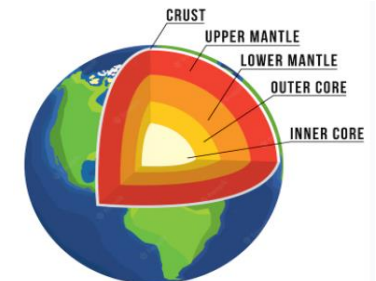
Mountains are areas of land that are much higher than the land surrounding them. They are higher and steeper than hills and are generally over 600 metres high. They are often found together in a group called a mountain range. The UK has some mountain ranges including Snowdonia (Wales) and the Pennines (England). The highest mountain in the UK is Ben Nevis in Scotland, and the highest in the world is Mount Everest in Asia.

How are mountains formed?

There are different types of mountains, but the most common is the fold mountain. Fold mountains take millions of years to form. They occur when tectonic plates push together and force the ground up into folds where they meet. The largest mountain ranges in the world are fold mountains, including the Himalayans, the Alps and the Andes.

Why are rivers and coasts important?

Throughout history, early settlements were often created by rivers (such as the Ancient Egyptians by the Nile) to ensure good access to water and because land near rivers was more fertile for growing crops. Later, rivers were used for transporting things. Today, they are used to create a renewable source of energy, known as hydroelectric power. Settlements are also found near coasts. Coastal areas became popular holiday destinations after the Victorians developed railways.



The layers of the Earth



How fold mountains are formed