

Year 4 Geography Assessment: The Journey of a River

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the water cycle, the stages of a river's journey, and the human and physical features associated with rivers.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to use technical vocabulary where appropriate.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the journey of the River Willow from the high, rocky uplands down to the vast, salty ocean. Along the way, the river changes shape, speed, and size as it travels through different landscapes. Finn has noticed how the river carries stones and soil, carving out the land over many years.

Word bank: source · confluence · meander · mouth · tributary · erosion · deposition · estuary · channel · sediment

1. Define the term 'source' and explain where a river typically begins its journey. (2 marks)

2. What is the difference between a tributary and a confluence? (2 marks)

3. Describe the process of 'erosion' and explain how it changes the shape of a river bank over time. (3 marks)

4. Compare the speed and width of a river at its source compared to its mouth. Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Explain why many ancient civilisations chose to build their settlements near rivers. Give at least two reasons. (4 marks)

6. What might happen to the local environment if a river were to become heavily polluted with plastic waste? Consider the impact on wildlife and humans. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a water droplet starting your journey at the source of a river. Describe your adventure as you travel downstream towards the sea. Include geographical features such as meanders, waterfalls, and the mouth of the river in your narrative. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing the three stages of a river's course: the upper course, middle course, and lower course. Ensure you label at least four geographical features.



Extension challenge: Research task: Investigate a major river in the UK. Find out its total length and calculate how much it would cost to take a boat trip along a 15-mile stretch if the tickets were £12.50 for adults and £8.00 for children. If a group of 3 adults and 4 children go, what is the total cost? Explain why river management is essential for communities living near floodplains. Total: /25