

Year 5 Geography Assessment: The Journey of a River

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the stages of a river, key geographical terminology, and the impact of rivers on the landscape.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers are written in clear, concise sentences. Use the provided word bank to assist with geographical terminology.

Finn the dolphin has spent the summer mapping the river systems of the United Kingdom. He tracked the water from the high, rocky hills where it first begins its journey, down through the winding bends in the meadows, and finally to the place where the river meets the salty sea. Along the way, Finn noticed how the fast-moving water picks up stones and soil, carving out the land as it travels towards the coast.

Word bank: Source · Mouth · Tributary · Meander · Confluence · Erosion · Deposition · Estuary

1. Define the term 'source' and the term 'mouth' in relation to a river's journey. (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between a tributary and a confluence. (2 marks)

3. Describe the process of erosion and explain why it happens more quickly in the upper course of a river. (3 marks)

4. What is a meander? Describe how the shape of a river changes as it flows through flat land. (3 marks)

5. Finn finds a small shop near the river selling maps for £4.50 and guidebooks for £6.25. If a school group buys 4 maps and 2 guidebooks, what is the total cost? Show your working out. (4 marks)

6. Explain how human activity can affect a river. Think about pollution, transport, or leisure activities. (3 marks)

7. Imagine you are following a river from its source to the sea. Write a detailed description of how the river's speed, width, and surroundings change as it moves from the upper course to the lower course. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a river, including the source, a meander, and the mouth.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research one major river in the United Kingdom and write three facts about its importance to the local community.