Mapping the Journey of a River with Finn

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate the key features of a river's journey from the source to the mouth.

Follow the drawing prompts to create a diagram of a river. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label the specific features of the river's course.

Draw: Create a landscape drawing showing the path of a river. Use a clear, labelled diagram style. Start with rugged mountains at the top, show the river widening as it flows through flat land with large, sweeping curves (meanders), and finish where the river meets the sea at the bottom of the page. Use blue for water and green for the surrounding land. Ensure all seven labels from the word bank are clearly pointed to the correct sections of your drawing.

Label words: Source · Meander · Tributary · Confluence · River bank · Mouth · Estuary

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a high mountain range at the top of your page. Mark the 'Source' where a small stream begins to trickle down. Why do rivers usually start in high places?
2. Step 2: Draw a winding, S-shaped curve in the middle section of the river. Label this a 'Meander'. Describe what happens to the water's speed when it flows around a bend.
3. Step 3: Draw a smaller stream joining your main river at a point called the 'Confluence'. What do we call a

smaller river that feeds into a larger one?

4. Step 4: Draw the end of the river where it meets the sea. Label the 'Mouth' and the 'Estuary'. What is the difference between these two features?

5. Final Task: Label the 'River bank' on both sides of your river. Why is vegetation often found along the banks of a river?