

Finn's River Journey: The Stages of a River

Learning objective: To understand the physical processes and features of a river as it flows from source to mouth.

Finn the dolphin is mapping the journey of a river. Use the words from the bank to complete the sequence of the river's life cycle. Write the correct term for each stage described below.

Word bank: Source · V-shaped valley · Meander · Tributary · Mouth · Estuary

1. 1. Finn starts at the very beginning of the river, usually found high up in the mountains where rain collects. What is this place called? (2 marks)

2. 2. As the river flows through the mountains, it cuts deep into the land, creating a steep-sided shape. What do we call this landform? (2 marks)

3. 3. A smaller river or stream that joins the main river is known by what name? (2 marks)

4. 4. As the river reaches flatter land, it begins to bend and curve. What is the name for these large, winding loops in a river? (2 marks)

5. 5. The very end of the river, where it meets the sea or an ocean, is called the... (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a river starting from the mountains and flowing down to the sea. Label the 'Source' at the top and the 'Mouth' at the bottom. Add a small 'Tributary' joining the main river along the way.



Extension challenge: Research the River Thames. Write a short paragraph explaining how the human use of the river changes from its source in the Cotswolds to its mouth in the North Sea.