Rivers: A Journey from Source to Sea

Learning objective: To describe and understand the physical features and stages of a river's journey.

Use the prompts below to write a descriptive report about a river. Think about how the water changes as it travels from high ground to the ocean. Use the word bank to help your writing flow.

A river begins its long journey as a small stream high up in the mountains, often called the source.

Word bank: meander · tributary · estuary · confluence · downstream · furthermore · consequently · winding · gradually · magnificent

1. The Upper Course: Describe the source of the river. Where does it start and what does the landscape look like? Start with: High in the mountains, the river begins... (2 marks)

2. The Middle Course: Explain how the river changes as it travels away from the mountains. Include the word 'tributary'. Start with: As the river travels further downstream, it... (3 marks)

3. The Lower Course: Describe the shape of the river here and what happens near the sea. Start with: In the lower course, the river widens and begins to... (3 marks)

4. Human Impact: How do humans use rivers in their daily lives? Start with: Rivers are very important to people because... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the importance of rivers to the natural environment. Start with: To conclude, a river is a vital part of the landscape because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Max the monkey is trying to calculate the distance a river travels. If a river flows at 3 miles per hour and travels for 12 hours, how far has the water travelled? Write a sentence explaining your calculation.