

Finn's River Journey: From Source to Sea

Learning objective: To understand the physical features of a river and the process of the water cycle as it travels from the source to the mouth.

Finn the Dolphin has been mapping the journey of the River Winding. Below is a list of river features and their descriptions. Use the word bank to correctly label each stage of the river's journey in the order they occur (from high ground to the sea). Then, answer the challenge questions to demonstrate your geographical expertise.

Word bank: Source · Tributary · Confluence · Meander · Floodplain · Mouth · Estuary · Channel

1. 1. Identify the 'Source'. Explain why rivers usually begin in high, mountainous areas. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. 2. Define a 'Confluence'. If two rivers meet, what happens to the volume of water in the main river? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. 3. Compare a 'Meander' to a straight section of a river. Why might the water flow differently in these two areas? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. 4. Justify why the 'Mouth' of a river is often a popular place for human settlements and towns to be built. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. 5. What might happen to the surrounding land if a river bursts its banks during a period of heavy rainfall? (2 marks) (2 marks)

6. 6. Explain the difference between an 'Estuary' and a 'Mouth'. Why are these areas important for wildlife? (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section diagram of the River Winding, labelling the source at the top of a hill, the winding meanders in the middle, and the wide mouth where it meets the sea.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a water droplet starting your journey at the source. Write a short, creative diary entry describing the different landscapes you pass and how your speed and surroundings change as you travel towards the sea.