

Finn's River Expedition: Mapping the Journey

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate the physical features of a river from its source to its mouth, understanding the processes of a river's journey.

Follow the steps below to create a detailed diagram of a river's journey. Use your best geographical drawing skills to represent the landforms clearly.

Draw: Create a landscape-style diagram showing a river flowing from the top of the page (the mountains) down to the bottom (the sea). Use a clean, scientific style. Include clear lines for the water channel and distinct shading for the surrounding land. Ensure the labels from the word bank are neatly printed next to the corresponding features.



Label words: Source · Tributary · Meander · Riverbank · Channel · Mouth · Estuary

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a high mountain range at the top of your page. Mark the 'source' where the water begins. Explain why rivers usually start in high-altitude areas.
2. Step 2: Draw a smaller stream joining the main river. Label this a 'tributary'. What might happen to the volume of water in the main river after it meets a tributary?
3. Step 3: Draw a large, winding 'S' shape in the middle section of the river. Label this a 'meander'. Why does the river curve in this way rather than flowing in a straight line?

4. Step 4: Draw the river reaching the sea. Label the 'mouth' and the 'estuary'. Compare and contrast the speed of the water at the source compared to the mouth.
5. Step 5: Label the land on either side of the river as the 'riverbank'. Justify your answer: Why do you think human settlements were historically built near riverbanks?
6. Step 6: Use your knowledge to add one physical feature of your choice (e.g., a waterfall or a floodplain) to your drawing and label it clearly.