

Finn's River Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the physical features of a river and explain the water cycle processes that contribute to river flow.

Join Finn the dolphin on his journey upstream! Use this fact-file to map out your knowledge of rivers. Research the different stages of a river and explain how they change as they flow towards the sea. Write in full, descriptive sentences and use geographical vocabulary.

Word bank: source · mouth · meander · tributary · confluence · erosion · deposition · estuary · channel · bank

1. The Source: Describe the typical environment where a river begins its journey. Explain why the source is often found in high, mountainous terrain. (2 marks)

2. River Features: Define a 'meander' and a 'tributary'. Compare how these two features change the shape and size of the river channel. (3 marks)

3. The Journey: Explain the process of erosion and deposition. Justify why a river might deposit sediment as it approaches the sea. (3 marks)

4. The Mouth: Describe what happens at the river's mouth. What might happen to the local environment if the river flows into a wide estuary? (2 marks)

5. Comparing Rivers: Contrast a river in its upper course with a river in its lower course. How does the speed of the water differ in these two locations? (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: If a river were blocked by a man-made dam, what might happen to the wildlife and the flow of water downstream? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a raindrop falling near the source of a river. Write a short creative account of your journey, using at least five terms from the word bank to describe the geographical changes you witness as you travel to the mouth of the river.