

Finn's River Journey: From Source to Sea

Learning objective: To identify and describe the stages of a river's journey and understand the geographical features found along its course.

Finn the Dolphin is mapping the journey of a river. Use the vocabulary provided to label the stages of the river's course on your diagram. Then, answer the questions below to justify how these features are formed and why they are significant to the landscape.

Word bank: Source · Tributary · Confluence · Meander · Oxbow Lake · Mouth · Estuary · Erosion

1. Explain why the speed of a river is typically faster at its source in the upper course compared to the mouth in the lower course. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a 'tributary' and a 'confluence'. How do they work together to change the volume of a river? (2 marks)

3. Describe the process of how a meander can eventually transform into an oxbow lake. Use the term 'erosion' in your explanation. (3 marks)

4. Justify why many historical settlements and large cities were built near the mouth of a river or an estuary. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the local ecosystem if a river was dammed near its middle course, stopping the flow of sediment downstream? (3 marks)

6. If you were a river engineer, would you choose to build a bridge over a straight section of a river or a meander? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a river's journey from the high, steep mountains (the source) down to the flat, wide delta (the mouth). Label the features from the word bank in their correct geographical positions.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a raindrop falling at the source. Write a descriptive diary entry from the perspective of the water, detailing the different landscapes, obstacles, and fellow tributaries you encounter on your journey towards the sea. Use at least five geographical terms from the word bank.