

Year 5 Geography Assessment: The Journey of a River

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the physical processes, features, and human impact associated with rivers.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure you use technical terminology where appropriate. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the course of a river from the high mountains down to the vast, salty ocean. He has observed how the river changes shape, speed, and character as it travels through different landscapes, from rocky slopes to wide, winding plains.

Word bank: Source · Mouth · Meander · Tributary · Confluence · Erosion · Deposition · Estuary · Gradient · Channel

1. Define the term 'source' and explain how the gradient of a river usually changes as it moves from the source to the mouth. (2 marks)

2. Describe the process of a meander forming. Why does the river flow faster on the outside of the bend? (3 marks)

3. What is a 'tributary'? Explain how a tributary contributes to the total volume of water within a main river channel. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the processes of erosion and deposition. Where in a river's course is deposition most likely to occur and why? (4 marks)

5. Max the monkey is investigating human impact on rivers. Explain two ways that humans might alter a river's natural course and the potential consequences of these actions on the local environment. (4 marks)

6. List three features of the lower course of a river and explain why the water in this section often appears cloudier or browner than in the upper course. (3 marks)

7. Extended Response: Imagine you are following a river from its source to its mouth. Write a descriptive account explaining how the landscape and the river's physical characteristics evolve. Use at least four terms from the word bank in your response. (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing the three stages of a river's course (upper, middle, and lower). Include and label: a waterfall, a meander, and the mouth.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine a severe drought has affected the river's source for several months. Justify how this would impact the plants and animals living in the estuary. If a new town were built along the middle course, what might happen to the river's water quality and flow? Explain your reasoning.