

Exploring Rivers: A Journey with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify and describe the stages of a river's journey and understand key geographical processes.

Read the front of each flashcard and test your knowledge of river systems. Once you have answered, check the back of the card to see how Finn the Dolphin defines each term.

Source

The beginning of a river, usually found in upland areas like mountains or hills where rainwater or melting snow collects.

Tributary

A smaller stream or river that flows into a larger, main river.

Confluence

The specific point where two rivers or streams meet and join together to become one larger river.

Meander

A winding curve or bend in a river, often found in the middle course where the water flows more slowly.

Mouth

The final part of a river where it flows into a larger body of water, such as the sea or an ocean.

Erosion

The process where flowing water wears away the river banks and bed, carrying sediment downstream.

Deposition

The process where a river slows down and drops the sediment it was carrying, often creating landforms like deltas.

Estuary

The wide, tidal mouth of a river where freshwater from the river meets and mixes with saltwater from the sea.

Watershed

An area of high land that separates two different river basins; water on one side flows into one river, and on the other side flows into a different one.

Channel

The physical bed and banks of the river that hold the flowing water in place.

Upper Course

The section of the river nearest the source, characterised by steep gradients, narrow channels, and fast-flowing water.

Lower Course

The final section of a river before it reaches the sea, where the river is at its widest and deepest, often moving very slowly.