

Finn's Incredible River Journey

Follow the Flow: From the Mountain Peak to the Deep Blue Sea!

- **The Source:** Every river begins as a small stream, often high in the mountains where rain or melted snow gathers. Why might the water flow faster at this stage of the river's journey?
- **Tributaries and Confluence:** Smaller streams, known as tributaries, join the main river. The point where they meet is called a confluence. How does the volume of water change after a confluence?
- **The Meander:** As the river reaches flatter land, it begins to wind in large loops called meanders. Can you identify how the speed of the water differs on the inside and outside of a bend?
- **Erosion and Deposition:** The river acts like a conveyor belt, picking up rocks and soil through erosion and dropping them elsewhere as deposition. What might happen to the riverbed if the water flow suddenly slows down?
- **The Mouth and Estuary:** The final stage is the mouth, where the river meets the sea. This area is often an estuary, a mix of fresh and salt water. Why is this environment a critical habitat for diverse wildlife?

Did you know? Did you know? Rivers are the world's natural architects! As they flow, they carve out deep valleys and transport sediment across vast distances, constantly reshaping the landscape of our planet over thousands of years.

Key vocabulary: Source · Tributary · Meander · Confluence · Estuary · Mouth · Erosion · Deposition