

# Finn's River Expedition: A Geography Field Study

*Learning objective: To identify and explain the key physical features of a river's journey from source to mouth.*

Join Finn the dolphin on a journey along a river! Use your geographical knowledge to complete this fact-file. Research the stages of a river and explain how the landscape changes as the water flows towards the sea. Use the word bank to help you use precise, technical vocabulary.

*Word bank: source · meander · tributary · confluence · estuary · mouth · erosion · deposition · upper course · lower course*

**1. The Source and Upper Course: Describe where a river typically begins and explain why the water flows so quickly in the upper course. (3 marks)**

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**2. Tributaries and Confluence: Define what a tributary is and explain the significance of a confluence point in a river system. (3 marks)**

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**3. Meanders: Explain how a meander is formed. Why does the river shape the land in this winding way? (4 marks)**

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**4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the features of the river at the source to the features found at the mouth. What has changed? (4 marks)**

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**5. Justify your answer: Why do you think human settlements are historically found near the lower course and estuary of a river? (4 marks)**

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**6. What might happen if: Imagine the river's flow was obstructed by a new dam. What might happen to the land and the ecosystem downstream? (4 marks)**

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*Extension challenge: Design a labelled diagram showing the cross-section of a river valley. Annotate your drawing to show where erosion is most active and where deposition occurs. Write a short paragraph explaining the water cycle's role in replenishing a river's supply.*