Finn’s River Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the stages of a river and its key physical features.

Help Finn the dolphin map out a river's journey from the hills to the sea. Use your geography textbook or class notes to fill in the sections below, describing how a river changes as it flows downstream.

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

1. The Source: Where does a river usually begin its journey? Describe the landscape you might find at the very start of a river. (2 marks)

2. The Middle Course: Explain what happens to a river when it starts to wind or curve. What is this shape called? (2 marks)

3. Tributaries: Define what a tributary is and explain how it contributes to the main river. (2 marks)

4. The Mouth: Describe what happens when a river finally reaches the sea or a lake. What is this area called? (2 marks)

5. River Processes: Choose one process (erosion or deposition) and explain how it changes the shape of the riverbank. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a famous river in the United Kingdom, such as the River Severn or the River Thames. Create a small map showing where it starts and which sea it flows into.