Rivers: From Source to Sea with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the journey of a river and identify its key geographical features and processes.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of river processes to provide detailed answers. Use the word bank to help you with the correct terminology.

Finn the dolphin is exploring the journey of water from the high mountains down to the vast ocean. Use what you have learned in class about the water cycle and river systems to complete the tasks below.

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

1. Explain the difference between the 'source' of a river and the 'mouth' of a river. Where would you expect to find each one located? (2 marks)

2. Describe what a 'tributary' is and explain how it affects the volume of water in the main river. (2 marks)

3. Define the term 'meander'. Why do rivers often curve and bend as they travel across flatter land? (2 marks)

4. Explain the difference between 'erosion' and 'deposition'. How do these two processes change the shape of a riverbed? (2 marks)

5. Finn is swimming near the coast where the river meets the sea. What is this specific area called, and why is it often a mixture of fresh water and salt water? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a river's journey from the mountains to the sea. Include the source, at least one tributary, a meander, and the mouth.

Extension challenge: Research a famous river in the United Kingdom, such as the River Thames or the River Severn. Write a short paragraph explaining one interesting fact about its journey or how humans use that river today.