Class 3 Geography Assessment: The Journey of a River

Learning objective: To identify the physical features of a river and understand how they change from source to mouth.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of geography to provide detailed answers. Finn the Dolphin will be watching over your progress!

Finn the Dolphin loves to swim from the high mountains down to the salty sea. He starts his journey where the river is a tiny, trickling stream. As he swims downstream, the river gets wider and deeper. He passes other small streams joining the main river, and he loves to splash around the curvy bends before finally reaching the wide, open ocean.

Word bank: source · mouth · meander · tributary · confluence · riverbank · channel

1. What is the name for the place where a river first begins, usually high up in the mountains? (1 mark)

2. Explain what a 'tributary' is and how it affects the size of a main river. (2 marks)

3. Describe the shape of a 'meander' and explain why rivers often have these curvy sections. (3 marks)

4. Finn swims until he reaches the 'mouth' of the river. Where does the river end at the mouth? (2 marks)

5. Look at the list of words in the word bank. Choose two words and write a sentence for each to show you understand their meaning in geography. (4 marks)

6. Why do humans often choose to build towns and villages near rivers? Give at least three different reasons. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are Finn the Dolphin. Write a short diary entry (about 5-8 sentences) describing your journey from the source of the river to the sea. Mention at least three geographical features you pass along the way. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a river. Include the source, one tributary, a meander, and the mouth.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research one famous river in the UK and write down its name and which sea it flows into.