Rivers: A Journey from Source to Sea

Learning objective: To describe the physical features of a river and its journey from the source to the mouth.

Use this writing frame to describe the life of a river. Think about how the river changes as it flows downstream. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

A river begins its long journey high up in the mountains at a place called the source.

Word bank: source · meander · mouth · tributary · downstream · fast-flowing · winding · furthermore · eventually · as a result

1. The Upper Course: Describe what the river looks like at the beginning. Where does the water come from and how does it move? (Start with: At the source, the water...) (2 marks)

2. The Middle Course: Explain how the river changes as it travels further down. What happens to the land around it? (Start with: As the river flows further downstream...) (2 marks)

3. Tributaries: Explain what a tributary is and how it affects the main river. (Start with: Sometimes, smaller streams called tributaries...) (2 marks)

4. The Lower Course: Describe the end of the river's journey. Where does it finish? (Start with: Finally, the river reaches the mouth where...) (2 marks)

5. Reflection: Why are rivers important to the landscape? (Start with: Rivers are important because...) (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tiny pebble travelling along the river. Write a short diary entry describing one thing you saw or felt during your journey from the mountains to the sea.