Exploring Rivers with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify and describe the stages of a river's journey from source to mouth.

Use your knowledge of rivers and the word bank to answer the questions below. Finn the Dolphin is waiting to see how much you know about our flowing waterways!

Finn the dolphin loves to travel along the river. He starts high up in the mountains where the water trickles from a spring, travels through winding curves, and finally meets the salty sea.

Word bank: Source · Mouth · Tributary · Meander · Channel · Confluence

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

2. Explain the difference between a 'source' and a 'mouth' of a river. (2 marks)

3. A smaller river that flows into a larger river is called a tributary. If you were drawing a map, how would you show this? (2 marks)

4. Rivers often curve and bend as they flow across apartment land. What is the geographical term for these bends? (1 mark)

5. Imagine a river is being used to transport goods. If it costs £15 to hire a small boat for one hour, how much would it cost to hire the boat for four hours? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a river journey. Label the source, a meander, a tributary, and the mouth where it meets the sea.

Extension challenge: Research a famous river in the United Kingdom, such as the River Thames or the River Severn. Write two sentences about where it starts and which sea it flows into.