

What should I already know?

Basic river vocabulary (KSI)

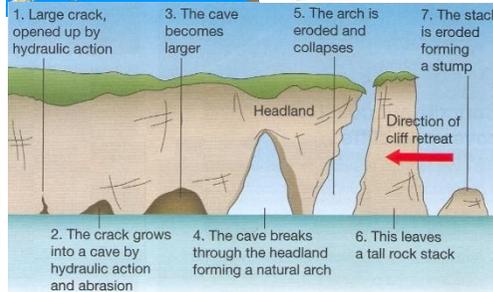
- Meanders
- Bridges
- Settlements
- Water

Water Cycle (KSI)

Local area knowledge (KSI)

- River Severn

World's five oceans (KSI)



National Curriculum Link:

Name and locate geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers)

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.

Key vocabulary

River - a naturally flowing watercourse, moving freshwater from source to sea.  
 Flood-The point at which the amount of water in the river channel exceeds capacity, causing the river to burst its banks.  
 Groundwater-water held underground in soil or rocks.  
 Mouth-The place where the river enters the ocean.  
 Source-The origin of the river - where it begins  
 Confluence-The junction of two rivers.  
 Meander-A natural bend in the river caused by different rates of erosion and deposition.  
 Erosion-The removal of sediment that occurs when the river has high levels of energy.  
 Deposition-The dropping of sediment by the river when the river has lower levels of energy.  
 Coast - A coast is where land meets the sea.  
 Tide- The rising and falling of the sea in a particular place.  
 Bay-An inlet of the sea where the land curves inwards, usually within a beach.  
 Headland-An area of hard rock where land sticks out into the sea either side of a bay.  
 Spit - a spit is a section of beach that is connected to the mainland and grows out into the sea.  
 Stack- a tall piece of rock standing alone in the sea.  
 Beach-a narrow sloping strip of land caused by the sea dropping sediment and material.  
 Cliff- a cliff is a mass of rock that is almost vertical and rises high above the ground.  
 Physical features- natural features that have developed.  
 Coastal erosion-The wearing away of the coast by the sea.  
 Sediment - the material that is dropped after water has carried it.  
 Hydraulic action- the process when waves crash against cliffs forcing air into cracks causing the rocks to break apart.

Key facts/figures

Longest rivers in the UK  
 Severn (220 miles)  
 Thames (215 miles)  
 Trent (185 miles)  
 Great Ouse (143 miles)  
 Wye (134 miles)  
 Avon (95 miles)

Longest rivers in the world  
 Nile (4123 miles)  
 Amazon (3977 miles)  
 Congo (2920 miles)  
 Mississippi (2348 miles)

Upper course  
 Rain falling in highland areas flows downwards and collects in channels, forming a stream. As the stream continues to run downhill, it's joined by other streams and increases in size and speed. The point where two rivers join is called a confluence.

Middle course  
 As a river reaches its middle course, the fast-flowing water causes erosion, which makes it deeper and wider. The river erodes left and right, forming horseshoe like loops called meanders.

Lower course  
 In the lower course, a river is in flatland and flows slowly. The force of the water is lower than in the other stages, so the river deposits all the bits of eroded land it has been carrying with it.

Erosion and deposition  
 Freeze-thaw weathering creates scree slopes and the energy from rivers erodes the ground. Further downstream, deposition takes place and, over time, the landscape becomes transformed.

Dams  
 Dams are a barrier built to hold back water to prevent flooding. Water held behind a dam is usually held in a reservoir.

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