

Lower Key Stage 2 - Elveden Academy

Knowledge organiser – Rivers and Coasts

Know how to...

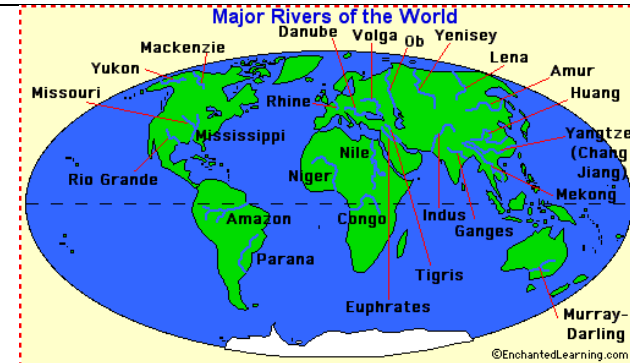
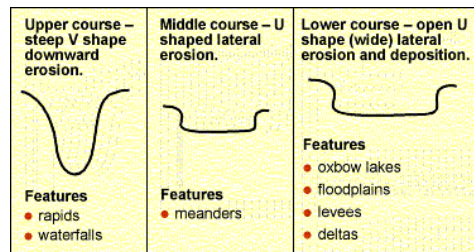
- Locate the key rivers of the UK and the world
- Describe the key features of a river system.
- Describe the ways rivers are used.
- Explain how water and weather can change the landscape— understanding key features of physical geography
- Understand how coastal features are formed; to identify coastal features of the UK.
- Explain how water and weather can change the landscape— understanding key features of human geography.

Rivers

All rivers tend to follow the same pattern: as they flow from the source to the mouth, they start off narrow and end up wider; they start off straight and end up meandering.



The land near the source is high and steep. Heading towards the mouth the land gets lower and flatter. The narrow V-shaped valleys open out, eventually becoming wide, flat flood plains.



Key River Vocabulary

erosion	The wearing away of rocks, stones and soil by rivers, waves, wind or glaciers.
source	Where the river/stream begins. This is usually high up.
tributary	Is a stream or river that flows into a larger river or lake.
confluence	The point where two rivers or streams join.
meander	A winding curve or bend in a river. They are typical of the middle and lower course of a river
floodplain	Is the flat land of the river valley close to the river banks. It is usually found in the lower course of a river.
delta	An area of low flatland where a river divides into several smaller rivers before flowing into the sea.
estuary	Occurs near or at the mouth of a river, where the tide meets the current and the fresh and salt waters mix.
mouth	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river or the ocean.

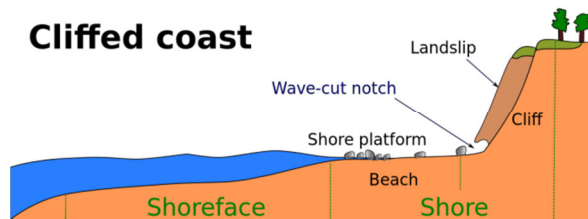
Coasts

The area where the sea and land meet is called a coast. The coasts of the world measure about 193,000 miles (312,000 kilometers) in total.



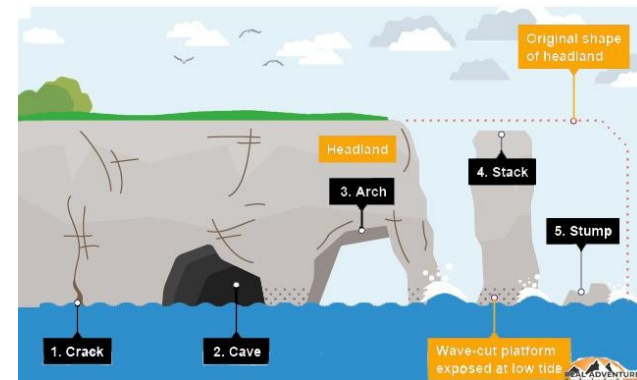
Over time, waves erode a notch at the base of a cliff in a process called undercutting. When this notch becomes too heavy it will break off and crash into the sea. Different parts of the rock face are eroded at high and low tide. If high winds meet a high tide, the erosion will be greater. Different coastal features such as caves, arches and stacks are all formed by erosion.

Cliffed coast



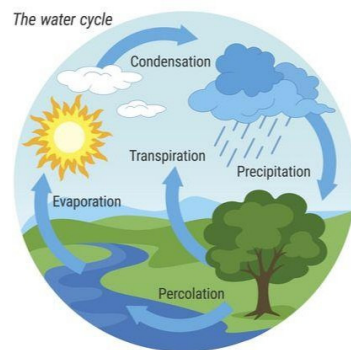
Key Coast Vocabulary

weathering	The process where rock is dissolved, worn away or broken down into smaller pieces.
erosion	When materials like soils or rocks are moved by wind or water. These materials are called sediments.
deposition	When sediments are dropped off in a different location.
headland	The area of land that is high, steep and extends over a body of water.
dune	A hill or ridge of sand piled up by the wind.
arch	A natural opening eroded out of a cliff face.
stack	A steep or vertical column of rock in the sea near the coast.



The Water Cycle

The water cycle is the journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again. It follows a cycle of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.



Key Water Cycle Vocabulary

evaporation	Is the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas. The change of state is due to an increase in temperature/
condensation	The process by which the water vapour in the atmosphere cools and changes into liquid water. This is the result of hot air becoming cool.
precipitation	Water that falls from the clouds towards the ground e.g. rain, hail, sleet or snow.
collection	Precipitation is collected in bodies of water, such as rivers, lakes and oceans.
runoff	Is precipitation that did not get absorbed into the soil and makes its way from the surface into places where water collects.

