

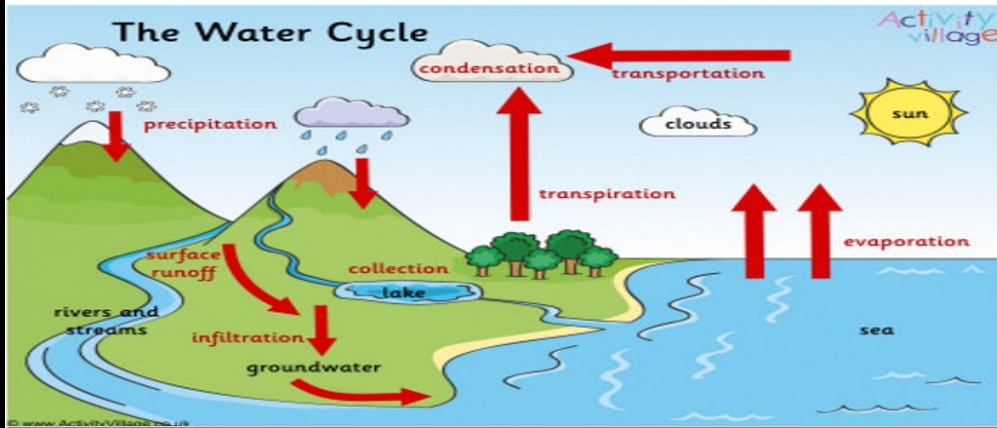
Cunningham Hill Junior School - Geography Knowledge Organiser - Rivers

- What are the longest rivers in the world, England and the UK?
- Why are rivers so important to humans?
- Name 5 key features of a river?
- What are the main causes of flooding?
- How can flooding be prevented?



Key Knowledge:

- The water cycle is the way in which water moves around the Earth – Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, Transpiration
- Rivers have many uses around the world, including cleaning, cooking, growing crops, transport and creating power.
- A river has three main stages: upper course, middle course and lower course and has many key features
- Flooding is caused by poor drainage around or close to a river.
- Countries spend millions of pounds trying to improve flood defences.
- The longest river in the world is the River Nile.
- The longest river in England is the Thames



The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.

basin	The land water must cross to reach a river. It collects all available water from tributaries, creeks and streams in its area
bed	The bed is the bottom of a river. A riverbed can be made of sand, rocks or mud depending on the river
channel	a type of landform consisting of the outline of a path of relatively shallow and narrow body of
confluence	The junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width.
current	The strength and speed of the river. Water always flows downhill; the steeper the ground is, the stronger the current will be.
defences	Defences such as levees, bunds, reservoirs, and weirs are used to prevent rivers from bursting their banks.
delta	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea. The river slows down and drops all the sediment it was carrying.
deposition	When a river is fast flowing, it can transport sediment. If the river slows down, then it can no
downstream	The direction that the water flows, downhill towards the sea.
erosion	A fast flowing river can damage the riverbanks and wash bits of them downstream, making the
estuary	Where a river reaches the ocean and the river and ocean mix. Estuaries are normally wide and flat
floodplain	The flat area around a river that often gets flooded when the level of water in the river is high.
meander	A river that follows a winding course.
mouth	The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake.
rapid	sections of a river where the river bed has a relatively steep gradient, causing an increase in
riverbank	The riverbank is the land at the side of the river
sediment	Small bits of dirt or sand that are carried along by a river.
source	The start of a river is its source. This could be a spring on a hillside, a lake, a bog or marsh. A river
stream	a natural flow of water that follows a more temporary path that is usually not in a valley
tributary	A smaller river or stream that joins a big river
valley	low area often running between hills or mountains, which will typically contain a river or stream