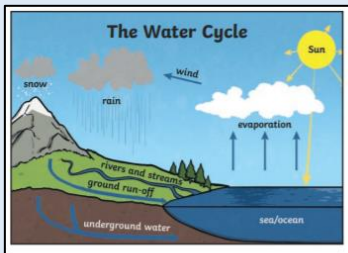
Knowledge Organiser – Year 6 – Geography – Spring Term – Raging Rivers

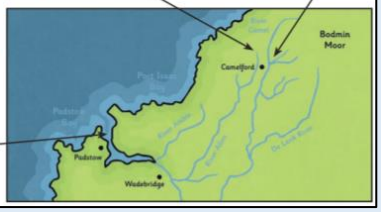
What do I already know?

- I can name different bodies of water
- I can explain the water cycle
- I understand the uses of rivers



Some rivers join up with other rivers (**tributaries**). The point where they meet is called a confluence.

The **source** of most rivers is on high ground or in the mountains.



Rivers in England, at their **mouth**, will flow into either the:
North Sea, Irish Sea, English **Channel** or Atlantic Ocean.

Key Vocabulary	
channel	The course in the ground that a river or water flows through.
dam	A barrier built to hold back water.
deposition/ deposit	When rocks and other materials that have been eroded are dropped off further along the river.
discharge	The amount of water flowing along a river per second.
erosion	Rocks and other river materials are picked up by the water and moved to another place along the river.
mouth	The point where a river joins the sea.
source	The place where a river begins.
tidal bore	A strong tide from the coast that pushes the river against the current causing waves along the river.
tributaries	Rivers that join up with another river.
valley	A long ditch in the earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains.

What should I be able to do at the end of the topic?

- Explain that the water cycle keeps going.
- Use a legend to find rivers on a map.
- Identify the sea a river flows into.
- Identify the place in which the source of a river is found.
- Compare the length of rivers.
- Compare the features of a river at different points along its course.
- Explain how meanders form.
- Describe how waterfalls are formed.
- Identify meanders on a map and photograph.
- Sort the ways rivers are used into categories.
- Give at least two reasons why dams are built.
- Identify the advantages and benefits of building a dam.
- Identify the disadvantages and risks of building a dam.

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.

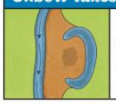
The Middle Course
Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider.
Features include - meanders.

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.

Meander - a curve in the river

Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

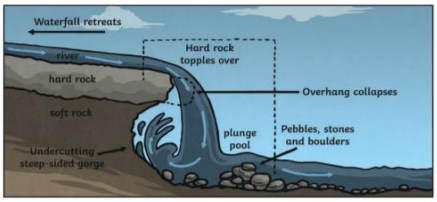
Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.

How Do We Use Rivers?

Leisure e.g. fishing	+	Controlled population of fish
	–	May leave litter and pollute the water
Industry e.g. factories	+	Sections of rivers maintained
	–	Chemicals pollute the water and habitats
Tourism e.g. walking routes	+	Conservation and education about local wildlife
	–	Too many people near wildlife habitats



Dams

Dams are built to hold water back, usually in a reservoir.

Dams might be built to:

- control the flow of a river to prevent flooding.
- generate power

Hydroelectric Power

1. Water is held behind a **dam**.
2. When needed, some of the water is released and flows through a pipe (penstock).
3. The falling water turns a water wheel (turbine) which is linked to a generator which produces electricity.
4. The water continues into the river on the other side of the **dam**.