

Year 4 Geography Summer: The Thames: friend or foe?

We will begin our year four geography enquiry, "Why on earth would you live here?" by exploring the nature of rivers.

Key skill: I can describe physical and human geographical processes.

We will be able to:

- To understand and describe the key aspects of physical geography – rivers
- To understand the nature of a river: that it flows downwards from high ground to the sea and that it has the power to erode and shape the landscape over time.
- To understand the nature of a river and how it changes on its journey from source to sea

To deepen our learning, we will:

- Be able to use maps, atlases and digital computer mapping to follow the journey of a river and record the place names it passes through
- Sketch a map of a river and notice features along the way
- To learn the names of a least 10 major world rivers and the continents they flow through and to begin to know some facts about major world rivers.

To celebrate our learning, we will:

Take a walk along a riverbank
Build a boat fit for a river

Vocabulary:

Bank - The riverbank is the land at the side of the river.

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.

Canal - A man-made waterway that is used so that boats can transport goods across the country.

Current - The strength and speed of the river. Water always flows downhill; the steeper the ground is, the stronger the current will be.

Confluence - The junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width.

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.

Erosion - A fast flowing river can damage the riverbanks and wash bits of them downstream, making the river wider.

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.

How does this link to previous and future learning?

