



**Topic: Why are our rivers important?**

**Year: 8**

**NC Strand: Human and Physical, fieldwork**

**What should I already know?**

I should be able to name and locate a range of human and physical features in the UK. I should also be aware of economic, environmental, social and political impacts of events.

**Dynamic Landscapes: Big questions**

<p><b>Why are rivers important?</b> We will introduce ourselves to the River Ivel through a short study on the significance of the river.</p>	<p><b>How does water flow into rivers?</b> We will study the various stores of water on its course from source to mouth.</p>	<p><b>What do rivers do?</b> We will explore the natural work by rivers through erosion, transportation and deposition.</p>
<p><b>How do rivers shape the land?</b> This study will explore how rivers shape the land the influence of human activity.</p>	<p><b>Fieldwork: River Ivel</b> We will plan and undertake a fieldwork exercise on the River Ivel.</p>	<p><b>How should we manage our rivers?</b> We will close the topic by exploring successful and unsuccessful river management attempts.</p>

**Vocabulary**

source	The start of a river. Usually on a hillside, lake, bog or marsh.
mouth	The exit of a river. Usually into the sea, but can also be into a lake or other river.
precipitation	Water released from clouds in the form of rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow, or hail.
interception	Precipitation which is intercepted by leaves or branches of plants.
evapotranspiration	Combination of water going into the atmosphere from evaporation and transpiration.
evaporation	The process by which a liquid turns to a gas.
transpiration	Water movement into a plant.
biosphere	The life supporting layer of the planets surface.
overland flow	Water flowing over the surface of soil following precipitation.
surface store	Water that is trapped in ponds, lakes and reservoirs.
percolation	Water that moves through the rock layers in the soil.
throughflow	Water that flows sideways through the soil.
groundwater store	A large underground store of water.
groundwater flow	Slow movement of water through the bedrock.
water table	The dividing line between the wet and dry rock.
channel flow	The movement of water through rivers.
erosion	The process of wind, rivers, waves and glaciers wearing something away.
abrasion	Material carried by the river hits the bed causing erosion.
attrition	Material carried the the river collides together, breaking into smaller pieces.
hydraulic action	Force of the water pushes into cracks, causing them to break.
corrosion	Rocks like chalks and limestone are dissolved.
suspension	Water carries light particles.
traction	Boulders and large rocks are slowly rolled along the bed.
solution	Dissolved material is transported.
saltation	Small pebbles and stones are bounced along the river bed.
waterfall	A river or other body of water's steep fall over a rocky ledge into a plunge pool below.
meander	When water flows in a curvy, bendy path, like a snake.
floodplain	An area of flat land alongside a river.

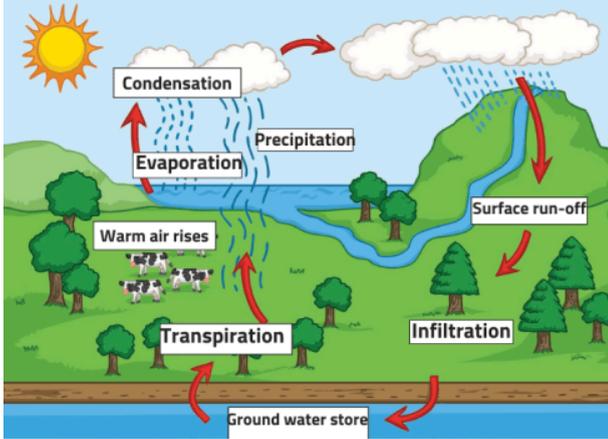


Topic: Why are our rivers important?

Year: 8

NC Strand: Human and Physical, fieldwork

Water Cycle



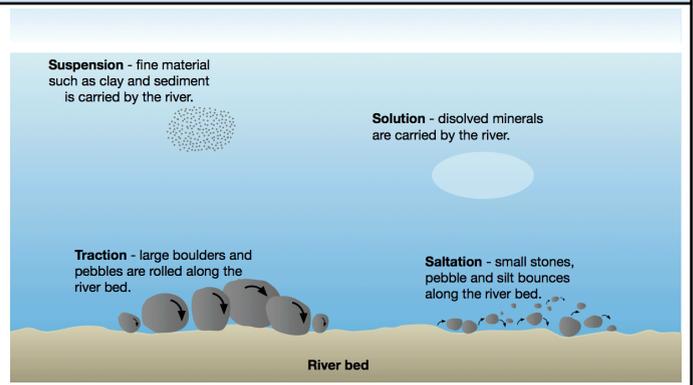
River Erosion



Facts about the River Ivel

Length - 25km  
 Type - chalk river (1 of 200 globally)  
 Source - North of Baldock, Hertfordshire,  
 Course - Bedfordshire  
 Mouth - River Great Ouse  
 Fish - barbel, bream, carp, chub, pike, and perch.

River Transportation



Reading/ media suggestions

<https://langfordhistorysociety.org.uk/the-river-ivel/>

Rivers and Mountains by Joanna Brindle

Rivers by Emily Dufresne

River (2021) - Amazon Prime

Britain's Beautiful Rivers - Richard Hammond, Channel 4