




Year 3 and 4 Knowledge Organiser - Landscapes: rivers

Key vocab		<p>A river is a natural watercourse flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river. In some cases, a river flows into the ground and becomes dry at the end of its course without reaching another body of water. A river is part of a physical process called the water cycle. Rivers carry rainwater from hills downhill to other rivers, lakes or the ocean. Rivers and streams often join together before they reach the mouth of the river. The smaller rivers and streams are called tributaries. Stream, creek, brook, rivulet, rill, beck and burn are all names for small rivers.</p> 	
watercourse:	a channel of flowing water		
tributaries:	smaller streams that join a river		
source:	the start of a river	Sticky Knowledge	
mouth:	the end of a river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A river begins at a source (or more often several sources), follows a path called a course, and ends at a mouth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers carve a V-shaped channel. In the middle reaches, where a river flows over flatter land, meanders may form.
channel:	the course of a river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water in a river runs through a channel, which is a river bed between two banks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes the river will cut off a loop, shortening the channel and forming an ox-bow lake.
river bed:	the bottom of a river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In larger rivers there is often also a floodplain shaped by floodwaters escaping the channel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers sometimes develop deltas at their mouths.
reaches:	parts of a river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers flow down mountains and through valleys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A river with its mouth in saline tidal waters will form an estuary.
meanders:	bends in a river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term 'upstream' refers to the part of the river nearest its source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most but not all rivers flow on the surface. Subterranean rivers flow underground in caves or caverns.
deltas:	where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likewise, the term 'downstream' describes the part of the river near its mouth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers are difficult and dangerous to cross.
estuary:	the part of a river that meets the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term 'left bank' refers to the left bank in the direction of flow, and 'right bank' to the right. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities and towns often develop where there are bridges to cross a river.

Exciting books!

