

Key Information

All rivers start from the highest point in an area.

Many settlements were built along major rivers.

Rivers provide us with food, energy, recreation, transportation routes, water for irrigation and drinking.

Ducks, voles, otters and beavers make their homes on riverbanks. Reeds and bulrushes grow along riverbanks.

Rivers are often polluted by litter, oil, poisonous substances and human waste. Polluted water kills plants and animals and can kill people if they eat infected animals.

The Nile is the longest river in the world. It is also the longest in Africa and runs through Egypt.

The Amazon river is the longest river in South America and the second longest in the world.

The longest river in Europe is the River Volga. It travels through Russia as the 18th longest in the world.

The longest river in the UK is the River Severn and begins in Wales and ends in the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol.

The longest river in Australia is the Murray-Darling. IT is the 15th Longest in the world.

The Mississippi river is the longest river in North America. It is in the USA and is the fourth longest in the world.

The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia. It is in China and is the third longest in the world.

The Thames is the longest river in England. It ends at the North Sea and is the deepest river in Britain.

Vocabulary

Mouth	This is the end of a river which is usually the sea but can be a lake
Source	The start of a river which is usually a spring
Riverbed	The ground at the bottom of a river often made up of sand and stones
Bank	The ground at the side of a river.
Erosion	The wearing away of the surface usually by water and rocks rubbing together.
Estuary	Where the river meets the sea and fresh and salt waters combine.
Flood	When water breaks through the bank of a river and spreads to the surrounding land.
Floodplain	The flat part of the land next to a river which is fertile land usually used for agriculture. This is the land that becomes flooded.
Meander	A bend in a river.
Tributary	A stream or river that feeds into a larger river.
Stream	A small, narrow river.
Dam	A barrier made to hold back water and raise its level, forming a reservoir used to generate electricity or as a water supply.

Key Diagrams

