

Geography: Why Don't Rivers Run Straight?

Year 5 Summer 2

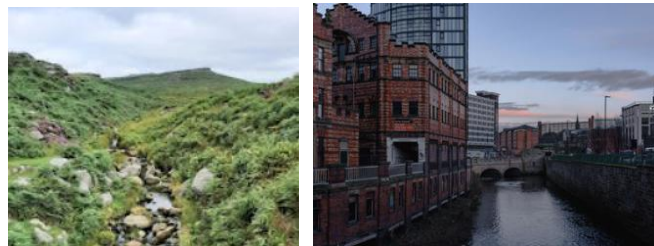
Key Facts

Why should we learn about rivers?

In this unit, you will celebrate Sheffield's relationship with its rivers. Like many human settlements, Sheffield has a river flowing through it – in fact, it has five! You will learn about the features of a river and the changes that take place, in the river itself and in its physical surroundings, as it continues its journey from source to mouth.

Rivers

- Rivers are naturally flowing watercourses. They are usually freshwater and flow towards an ocean, sea, lake or other river. Rivers can be a variety of sizes, long or short, wide or narrow. They often join together to make bigger rivers.
- A river is typically made up of three courses: upper, middle and lower.
- The Nile, located in Africa, is the longest river in the world (6,650 km). The Amazon, in South America) is the world's second longest river (6,400km).
- Sheffield has five rivers: The Don, Loxley, Rivelin, Porter and lastly, the Sheaf, from which Sheffield derives its name.



Vocabulary

Deposit – material that is being transported is dropped off at another point in the river.

Erosion – the process of wearing away and removal of material (see diagram).

Meander – a bend or loop, usually in the middle or lower course of the river (see diagram).

Mouth – the place where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean.

Source – the starting point of a river, often a hill or mountain.

Transportation – the process of eroded material being moved further downstream (see diagram).

Tributary – small rivers or streams which flow into a larger river.

V-shaped valley - shape of a river in the upper course with steep sides and narrow base.

Website Links

- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/home-is-good/fascinating-facts-about-rivers/>
- https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/?s=rivers&post_type
- <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/water-cycle/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/article/s/z7w8pg8>

Enquiry Questions

- What is a river?
- Where are the world's rivers?
- What is the geography of Sheffield's rivers?
- How do rivers shape the land?
- How does a river change?
- Why don't rivers run straight?
- Why do rivers flood?
- How do rivers affect people?
- Why are river estuaries important places for wildlife?

Geographical Concepts

Space– examining how natural and man-made spaces fit together. Space involves looking at the significance of location and spatial distribution, and ways people organise and manage the spaces that we live in.

Environmental Geography – looking at how we use the natural world and how people have the ability to change it. Understanding how the environment supports and enriches human life by providing raw materials, food and resources.

Geographical Skills

- Locate some of the world's significant rivers.
- Describe and understand key aspects of rivers.
- Describe and understand the physical processes of rivers and how these have shaped the land.
- Can describe and understand why water is such a valuable commodity.

Why don't you...

- Work out which of Sheffield's five rivers is closest to you and plot a journey to visit it?
- Find the UK's five longest rivers and plot them on a map?
- Imagine you are a drop of water? Write a diary entry describing what you might see as you travel along one of Sheffield's rivers.

River Features

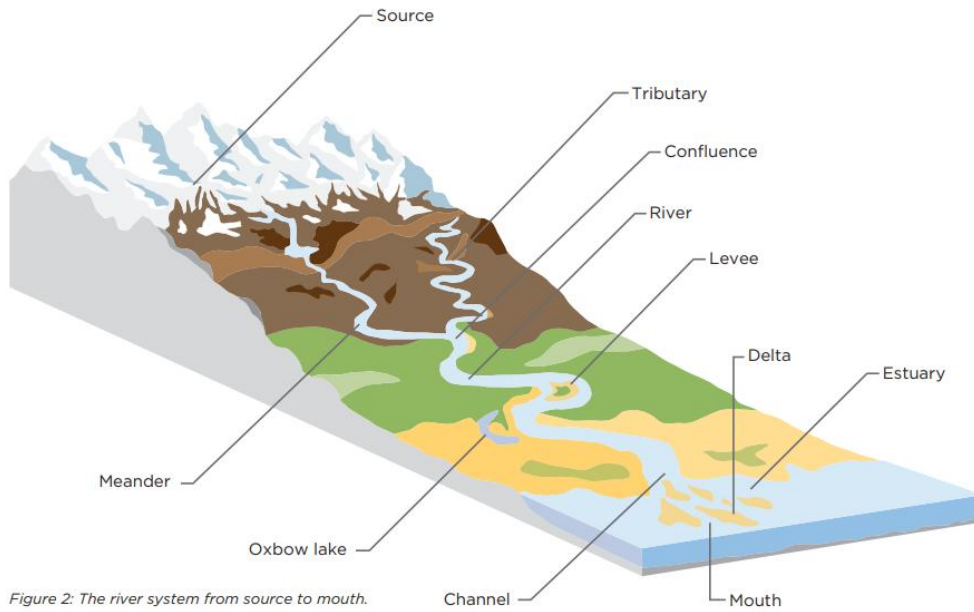
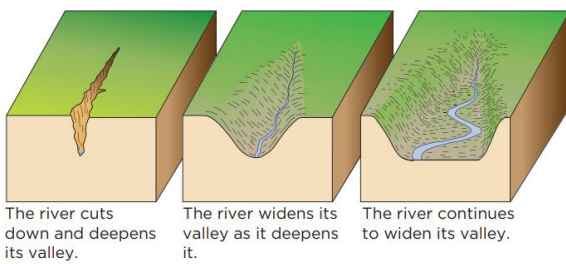


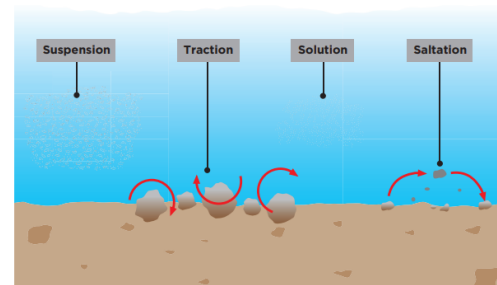
Figure 2: The river system from source to mouth.

River Processes are the actions that the flow of water has on the landscape.

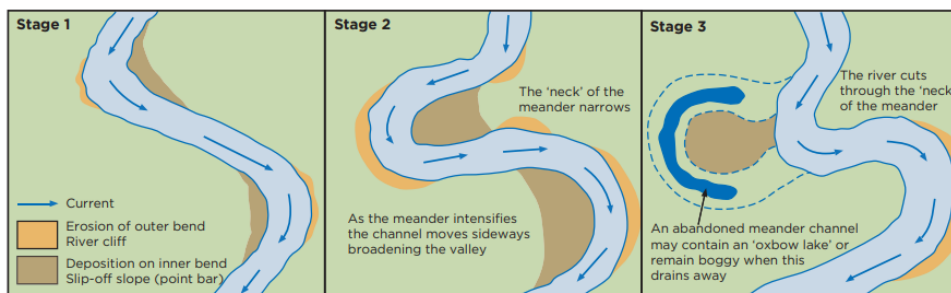
Erosion



Transportation



The Formation of Meanders and Oxbow Lakes



The Formation of a Waterfall

