



The **key** KNOWLEDGE

River study Subject Knowledge

A river is a body of water that flows from its source into another body of water. This can be another river, a lake or the sea. A river flows along a channel with its bed at the bottom. The source is the start of the river and can be a spring, a lake or a marsh. Rivers can wear the bed and the bank, this process is known as erosion. Where the river flows around a bend, it is known as a meander and when two rivers meet it is known as a confluence. The mouth of the river is where the river meets the sea. Flood plains are areas along a river that often floods.

The **key** VOCABULARY

Geographical vocabulary I need to learn	
flood plain	a flat area along a river prone to flooding
river bed	the bottom of the channel in which a river flows
meander	where a river flows around a bend
waterfall	where water drops abruptly from a higher to a lower point
tributary	a small stream which joins a larger one
confluence	where two rivers meet
source	where a river starts, it may be a spring, a lake, or a marsh
weir	an artificial barrier across a river used to control the flow
velocity	the speed of the water flow
mouth	where a river meets the sea (or a lake)
erosion	wearing of the river bed and bank
delta	an area of flat land at the mouth of river. It splits into tributaries

The **key** QUESTIONS

Key questions to consider
<i>Where does our water come from?</i>
<i>What geographical vocabulary do I need to know that describes the river system?</i>
<i>What is the water cycle?</i>

to help me describe and understand key aspects of the physical geography of rivers by thinking like a geographer

The **key** SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
Identify and names parts of the river system.
Identify river features in the field and record change along a rivers course.
Record and understand the data and information gathered from a visit.
Understand and use appropriate geographical vocabulary in explanations.
Describe the Water Cycle.
Understand what happens to rainfall when it hits the ground.