

Knowledge Organiser - Investigating Coasts and Rivers



Year 6 - Geography



Vocabulary	Definition
Bank	The riverbank is the land at the side of the river.
Bay	A broad inlet of the sea where the land curves inwards
Beach	The area of land between high and low tide made up of sand or pebbles.
Bed	The bottom of a river. The riverbed can be made of sand, rocks or mud.
Canal	A man-made waterway that is used so that boats can transport goods across the country.
Cave	A hollow in a cliff formed by wave action.
Cliff	A steep rocky slope that may overlook the sea.
Current	The flow of water in a certain direction.
Delta	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea. The river slows down and drops all of the sediment it was carrying.
Downstream	The direction that water flows down towards the sea.
Erosion	The wearing away of land by water in rivers or on the coastline.
Estuary	Where a river reaches the ocean and the ocean and river mix.
Fresh Water	Rainwater that falls from the sky has no salt in it. This is fresh water.
Headland	Part of the coastline that juts out into the sea.
Mouth	The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake.
Salt Water	The type of water in seas and oceans.
Sea Wall	An embankment to prevent erosion of a shoreline.
Silt	Small bits of dirt or sand that are carried along by a river.
Source	The start of a river is its source. This could be a spring on a hillside, a lake, a bog or a marsh.
Stream	A small river.
Tide	The rising and falling of the sea.
Tributary	A smaller river or a stream that joins a big river.
Upstream	The opposite direction to the way water in a river flows.
Waves	Formed when wind blows over the sea.

Enquiry Questions

- How do humans use rivers?
- What are the longest rivers in the world?
- What are the key features of coastlines?
- How many miles of coastline does the UK have?
- What is it like to work on coasts and rivers?