

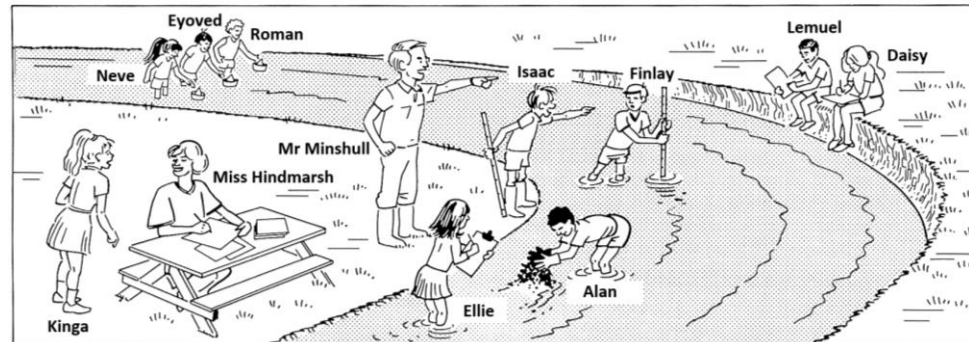
Y8 Rivers



Summary of all the topics

- Introduction to Rivers (Why are some rivers dangerous to humans?)
- What is a drainage basin?
- How does the water cycle work?
- What are waterfalls?
- What happens on a meander bend?
- Why do rivers flood?
- What happened when floods hit Sheffield and Bangladesh?

The drawing shows some of **8S** from All Saints Catholic High School on a Geography visit.



Key geographical concepts

- Rivers can be dangerous if people live near them, e.g. flooding. But they are also incredibly beautiful and provide us with an important source of water and food. They are also important ecosystems and are home to aquatic wildlife.
- Some of the world's great rivers are the Nile (the longest) and the Amazon (the one which contains the most water).
- The purpose of a river is to drain water from the land and take it to the sea. Rivers form an important part of the drainage basin hydrological cycle.
- Rivers have amazing landforms such as v-shaped valleys, waterfalls, rapids, meander bends, ox-bow lakes.
- Meander bends are cool. Inside a meander bend water is shallower on the inside and deeper on the outside. So be careful if you are standing near a river cliff on the outside of a meander bend!
- Rivers will sometimes flood. Every country on the planet suffers from river flooding on occasion: including the UK and Bangladesh.
- A major flood hit Sheffield in 2007. Bangladesh was also hit by a flood in 2007. Bangladesh was hit much worse because it is a low-income country (LIC) and didn't have the money or resources to deal with the flood on its own.
- Scientists tell flooding is expected to get worse over the coming years. This is because of global warming which is going to make some parts of the world wetter (including the UK!).

Summary of key learning

- You understand that rivers have a key terminology all of their own: source, mouth, upper course, middle course, watershed, confluence and drainage basin.
- You understand that there are physical causes of flooding such as heavy rainfall and snow melt. You also understand that humans can make flooding worse by building cities near to rivers. Cities have drainage systems which funnel water into rivers more quickly.
- You understand that there were important similarities and differences between the Sheffield Flood of 2007 and the Bangladesh flood of 2007. Sheffield's flood was expensive to fix, but the death toll was low. Sheffield could rely on well trained and well resources emergency services. Bangladesh's flood in 2007 was both costly to fix and the death toll was much higher. The Bangladeshi flood was on a much bigger scale compared to Sheffield.

Key words and definitions:

Source = start of a river.

Tributary = small river joining the main river.

Confluence = where two rivers join.

Mouth = the end of a river (just where it enters a sea or lake)

Drainage Basin = the area of land drained by a river

Watershed = an imaginary line that separates one drainage basin from another.

Meander = a bend in a river.

Estuary = a flat wide river mouth where fresh river water mixes with salty sea water.

Floodplain = the flat area either side of the river which is flooded when a river bursts its banks.

Flooding = what happens when a river bursts its banks and spills onto the floodplain.

Upper course = The first stage in a rivers journey where the land is high and steep.

Middle course = The second stage in a rivers journey where the land is gently sloping.

Lower course = The final stage in a rivers journey where the land is flat.

LIC – Low income country, e.g. Bangladesh. Often much worse hit by flooding.

HIC – High income country, e.g. UK. Hit less often by flooding and usually lower impacts.

