

River Explorers

Learning aims:

- Develop language about river features
- Understand the water cycle and how rivers play a part in moving nutrients
- Name some rivers in the UK and place them on a map
- Write creatively about rivers

Activity 1: Language

Discuss the following terms with your class:

- **Meander** - a bend in a river
- **Bank** - the edge where the water meets the land
- **Flow rate** - the speed at which water in a river flows
- **Erosion** - the act of wearing away river banks
- **Deposition** - sediments carried by the river which are dropped and can collect in areas creating new obstacles

Activity 2: The Water Cycle

Print out photos of the **water cycle with the labels** covered up. Print the labels separately and cut them out. Ask the students to organise the labels in the correct order according to the diagram. Discuss the process after with the whole class.

Activity 3: River Explorers

Split the class into pairs or small groups and **assign them a UK river** each. Challenge the teams to **research** their river and be able to locate it on a map of the UK. Questions might include: *Where is the source? Where is the mouth? How long is it? Can they name a town it passes through? What animals have been found here?*

Introduce the class to the river **Great Ouse and Ouzel** running through Milton Keynes.

Activity 4: Creative Writing

Challenge the class to write creatively about a river. They can do this in any form you'd like (i.e. a **poem/story**). Challenge them to write from an **interesting view point** - will it be from the river's point of view, or perhaps a leaf floating on its course?

Where does the river's story start? Where does it end? Are there any key features or characters?