

Theme Pack 7 & 8

Geography - Rivers

Let's explore the Lake District...

Follow the link below and watch the video clips online.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3fyedm/articles/zvys8xs>



Where is the Lake District?

The Lake District is a national park and World Heritage Site in North West England. It is home to the highest mountain in England - **Scafell Pike**, and the deepest lake - **Wastwater**. It is popular with both day visitors and holidaymakers because of its beautiful mountains and lakes.

What is it like in the Lake District?

The landscapes of the Lake District have been created over millions and millions of years. Rocks such as sandstone, limestone and granite gradually formed in layers. Next, tectonic plates created volcanoes and also pushed the rock up to create high mountains.

Two million years ago, icy glaciers covered the mountains and as the glaciers slowly crept down the mountains, they picked up pieces of rock, which eroded the mountains and created valleys. When the ice melted, these valleys filled up with the melted water and created deep lakes. Small crevices made by the ice at the tops of mountains filled with water to create tarns.

The Lake District is home to lots of plants and animals and also people, who live in towns such as Keswick and Windermere. Tourism is an important industry here, with over 12 million visitors every year who come to walk, cycle, run, boat or just to look at the amazing scenery.

Task 1

After reading through the information and watching the video clips, take the Lake District Quiz online by using the link:



Test your knowledge of the Lake District

Play

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3fyedm/articles/zvys8xs>

Task 2

Using a plain piece of paper and a pencil, have a go at sketching the photograph of the Lake District shown below.



Why not duplicate your sketch and try copying the image using coloured pencils, felt tips, chalks or paints to see which you like best? 😊

Rivers...

Follow the link below and watch the video clips online.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3fyedm/articles/zvys8xs>



What is a river?

A river is a moving body of water that flows from its **source** on high ground, across land, and then into another body of water, which could be a **lake**, the **sea**, an **ocean** or even another river.

A river flows along a **channel** with **banks** on both sides and a **bed** at the bottom. If there is lots of rainfall, or snow or ice melting, rivers often rise over the top of their banks and begin to flow onto the **floodplains** at either side.

How are rivers formed?

Rivers usually begin in **upland** areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow **downhill**. They always flow downhill because of gravity.

They then flow across the land - **meandering** - or going around objects such as hills or large rocks. They flow until they reach another body of water.

As rivers flow, they **erode** - or wear away - the land. Over a long period of time rivers create **valleys**, or **gorges** and **canyons** if the river is strong enough to erode rock. They take the **sediment** - bits of soil and rock - and carry it along with them.

Small rivers are usually known as **streams**, **brooks** or **creeks**. If they flow from underground they are called **springs**.

Watch this video to see more on rivers!



Task 3

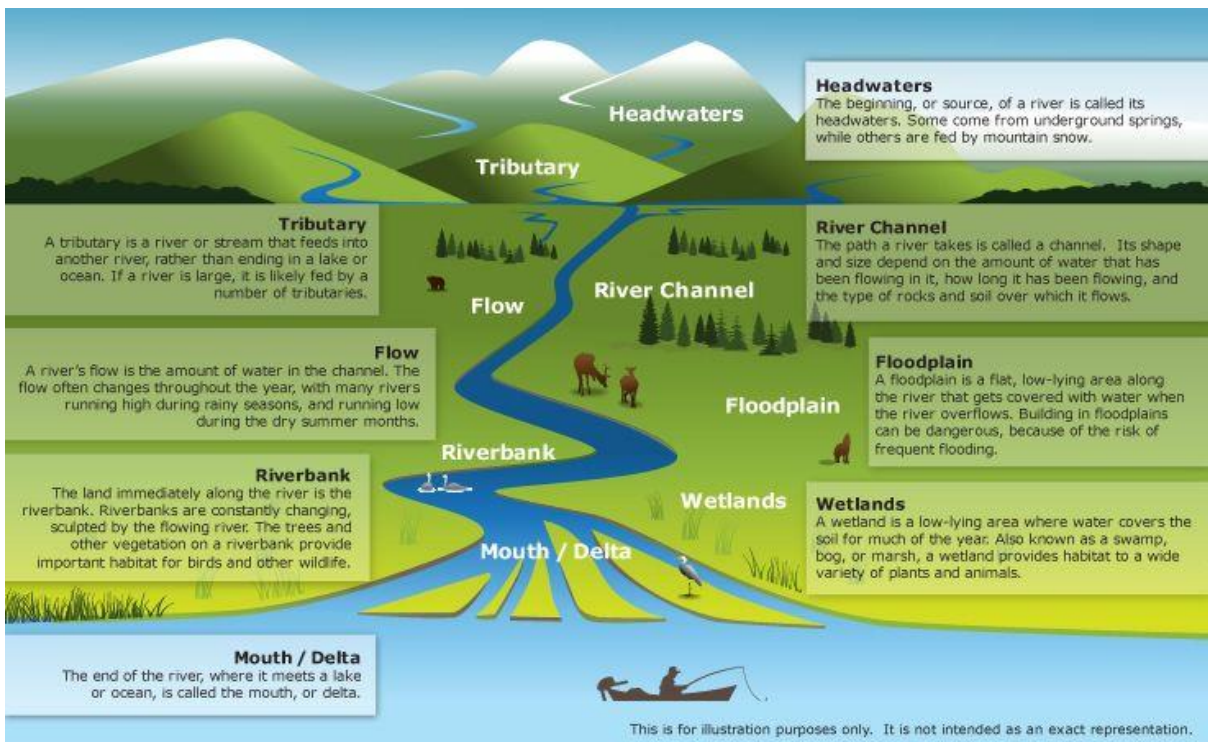
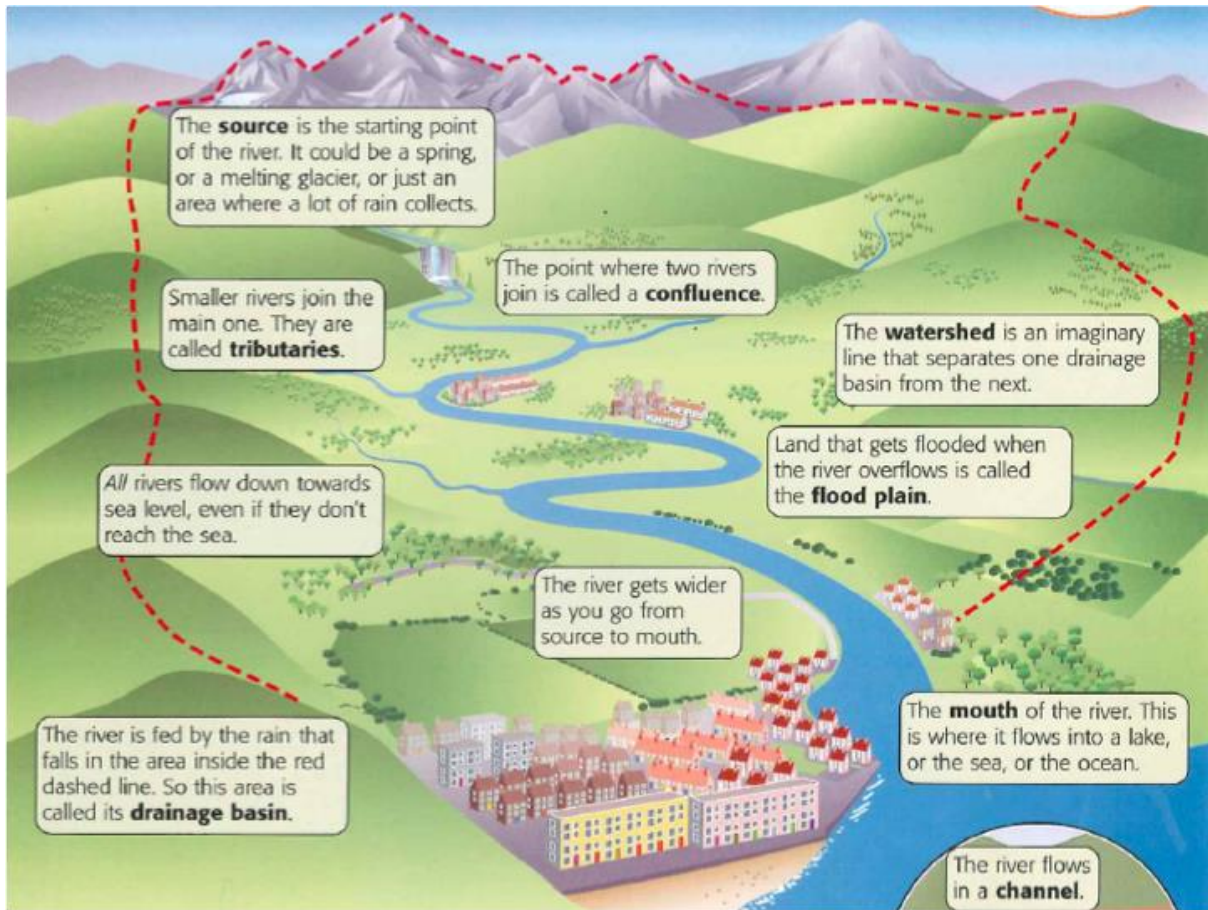
Complete the online quiz to answer the following questions:

- What is the start of a River called?
- Do rivers flow uphill or downhill?
- Where do many rivers end?

Use the annotated images below to discover more information about rivers. Use them to help you complete the 'journey of a river' worksheet.

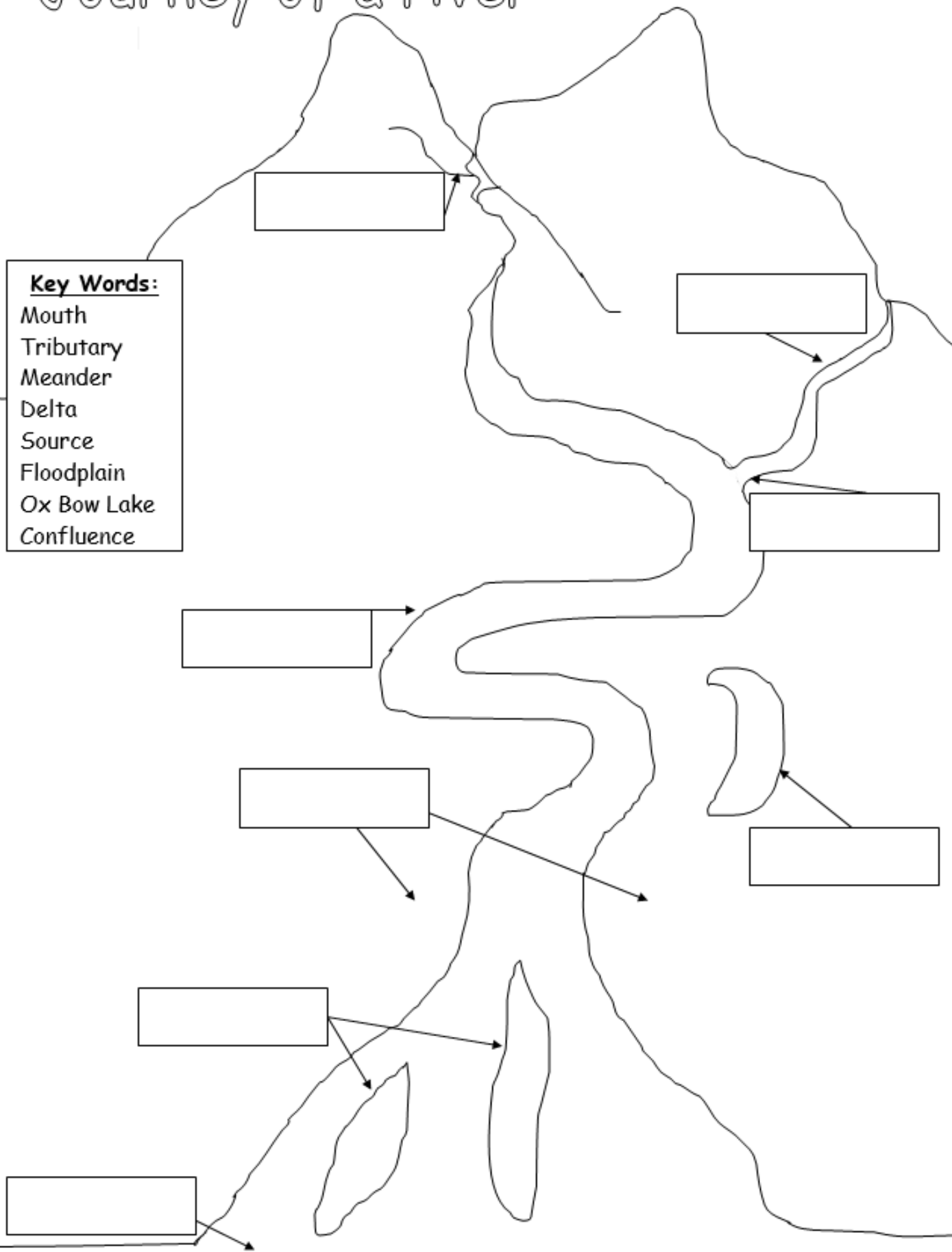
You may colour the river diagram in once you have finished. 😊





Journey of a river

- Key Words:**
Mouth
Tributary
Meander
Delta
Source
Floodplain
Ox Bow Lake
Confluence



Rivers of the World

The Nile

The Nile is traditionally considered to be the longest river in the world. It is 4132 miles (6650 km) long – that's nearly seven times the distance from John o' Groats at the top of Scotland to Land's End at the bottom of England! When most people think of the Nile, they think of Egypt but surprisingly, only 20% of the river is in Egypt - it also flows through other countries including Uganda and Ethiopia before ending at the Mediterranean Sea. Some people disagree about where the river starts, but it is now believed to be in the hills of Burundi.

The River Nile makes the land nearby good for growing. This is why the ancient Egyptians settled there, living and farming along the river producing food for themselves and their animals. The river became important for water and transport.

The Rhine

The Rhine flows through Germany and is 766 miles (1233km) long. It also travels through another five countries before reaching the North Sea in the Netherlands. Its source is a small stream coming from a glacier in the Swiss Alps (the mountains in Switzerland).



The Rhine has been used to transport food and other goods since Roman times and there are many castles found on its banks, such as Maus (mouse) Castle.

Many years ago, the Rhine was labelled one of the most polluted rivers in Europe. It was also badly affected by a chemical factory fire in 1986. Since then, a lot of effort has been put in to clean it up including making the drinking water safe.

The Volga

This river runs from its source in the hills in North-West Russia to the Caspian Sea. It is the longest river in Europe and is 2294 miles (3692 km) long. In places, the Volga is so wide that you can't see the other side! Its name in Russian means 'moisture' or 'wetness'.

Huge sturgeon fish can be found living in the water. However, the river is quite polluted due to factories dumping waste there which has a bad effect on the people who make caviar. (Caviar is a very expensive food made from fish eggs.) The river is also used for taking goods all over Russia but is frozen for around three months of the year.

One of the biggest battles of the Second World War, the Battle of Stalingrad, happened on the banks of the river at Volgograd, the city named after the river which used to be called 'Stalingrad'.

The Danube

This is the second largest river in Europe. It is 1785 miles (2680 km) long and its source is in the Black Forest Mountains in Germany, flowing to the Black Sea. This river flows through, or along the border of many different countries including Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania to name a few. It also flows through the capital cities of Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna and Bratislava.

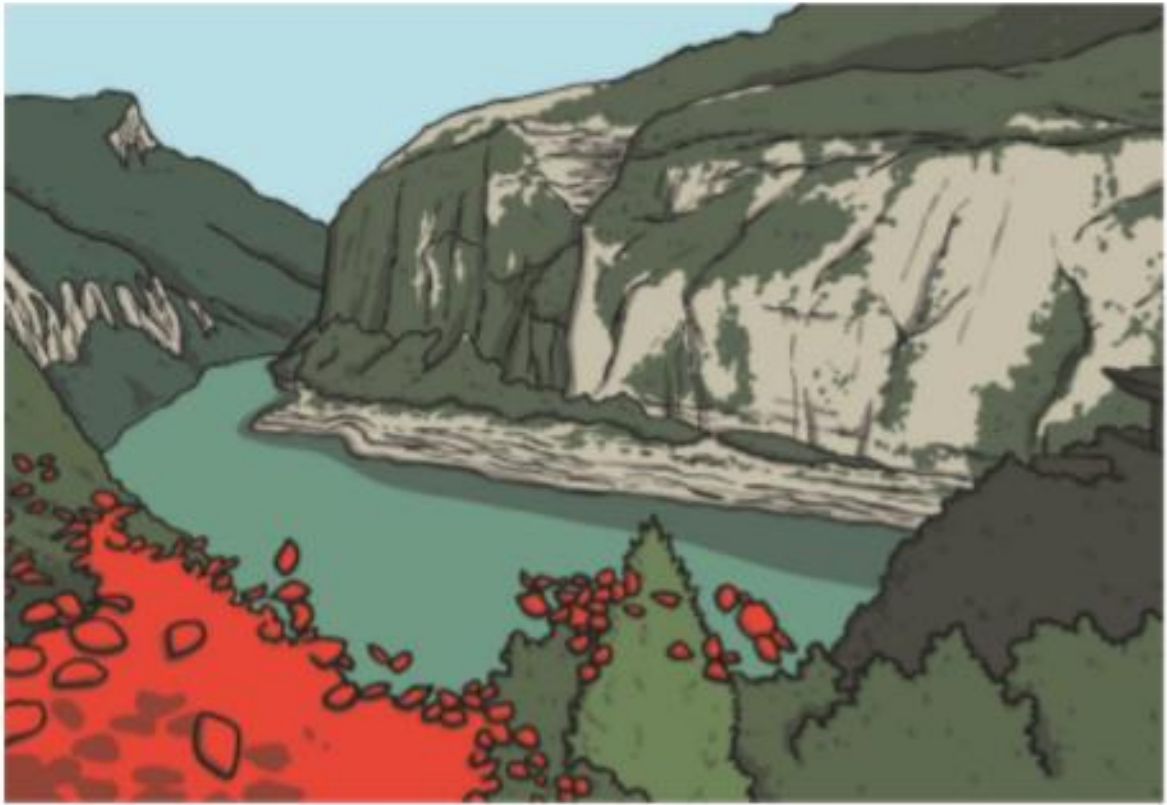
The Danube has many tourists who enjoy the river cruises and the river has also inspired artists and composers through history. One of the most famous pieces of classical music written is The Blue Danube, by the Austrian composer Johann Strauss II.

The Amazon

The Amazon is the second longest river in the world, stretching 3944 miles (6347 km); however, recent studies indicate that it is longer than the Nile. Its source is in the Andes Mountains in Peru and it flows through many countries before it finishes at the Atlantic Ocean. (Why not look at it on a map?)

Somewhat surprisingly, there are no bridges that cross the river although during the wet (rainy) season, the Amazon rapidly fills with more water and can reach over 120 miles (190 km) in width.

Many species of fish live in the river (including piranhas) and one of the largest snakes in the world, the anaconda, lives in the shallow waters. (Anacondas can attack larger animals as big as goats!)



The Yangtze

Its Chinese name means 'long river' which is a good name for the longest river in Asia, measuring 3915 miles (6300km). Its source is in the mountains in western China and it flows into the East China Sea. The river is one of the busiest in the world, filled with cruise ships and ships taking goods in and out of China.

More than 50 bridges cross this huge river and it is home to many different species of animals, including the Chinese alligator and the Chinese paddlefish. However, these species are now endangered because of pollution and all the ships that use it.

Task 4

Read through the 'Rivers of the World' text to find out information about different rivers around the world. Circle or underline interesting facts as you read.

Answer the questions below to see what you know 😊

Questions

1. What is the length in miles of the shortest river here?

2. Name one place that the Danube flows through.

3. If Johann Strauss II is Austrian, which country is he from?

4. Why can't you cross the Amazon easily?

5. What percentage of the Nile is in Egypt?

6. Which famous historical event took place on the banks of the Volga and when was it?

7. In which mountain range does the Rhine begin?

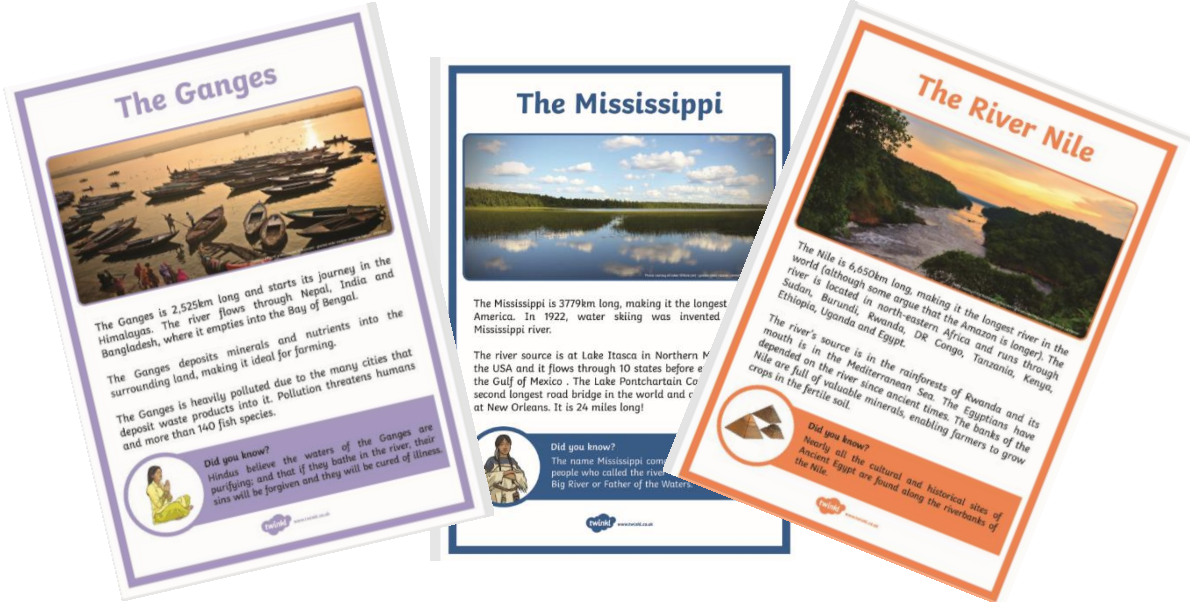
8. Find all the conjunctions in 'The Yangtze' paragraph.

9. Find two adverbs in 'The Amazon' section.

10. Which of these rivers might you most like to visit and why?

Task 5

Look at the fact sheets below for different rivers of the world. Choose one river discussed within the text and create your own fact sheet. See if you can include both writing and pictures. Use information within the text to help you.



Task 6

Have a go at some of the water activities within the Yorkshire Water Activity Book. See if you can get family members to join in too! 😊

