

Rivers and Mountains

Year 3 – Summer Term 1

Prior knowledge

Children have previously learnt about using atlases to locate cities and rivers in the UK during our "Roman Britain" topic. They may have encountered very simple terminology relating to rivers and mountains.

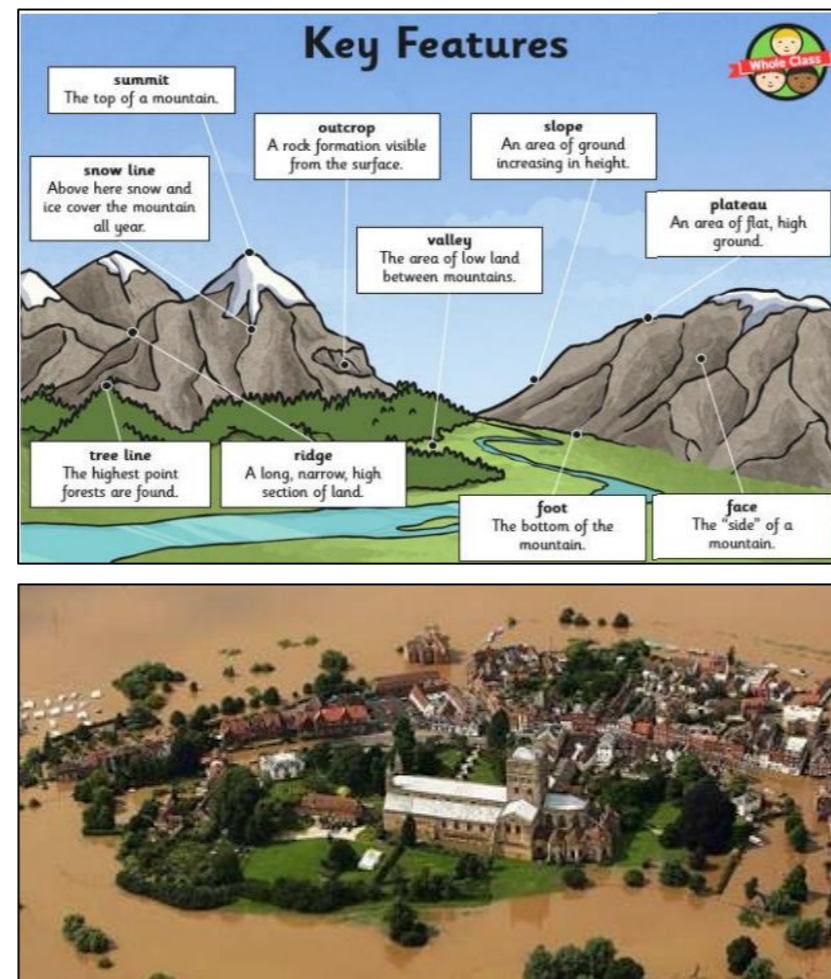
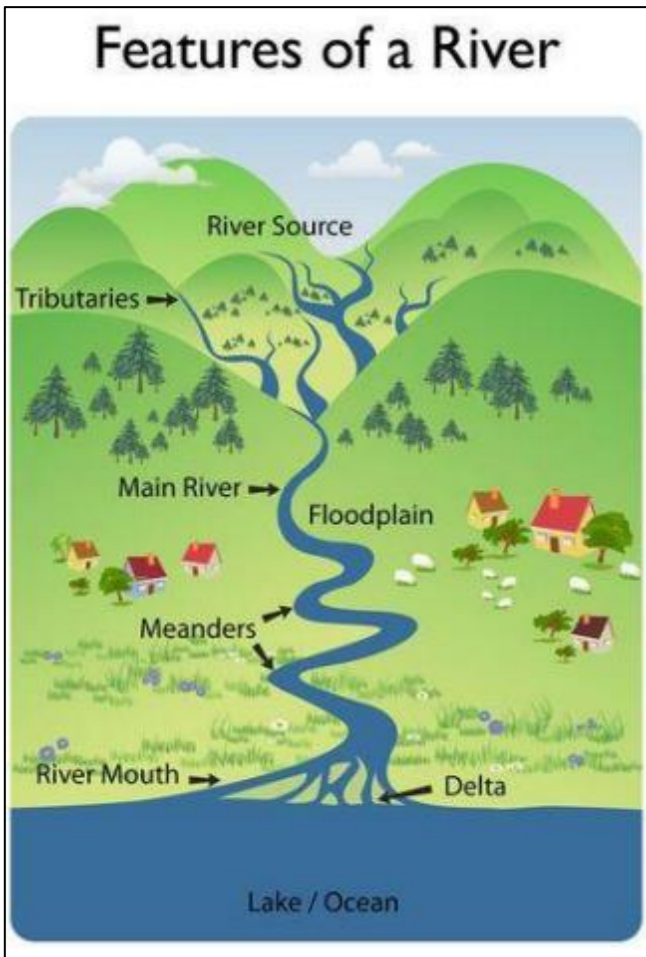
Key knowledge:

Rivers begin at their source. In higher ground such as mountains where melted snow and rain water collects and forms tiny streams. When one stream meets another it forms a smaller stream called a tributary. Many tributaries form a river. The majority of rivers flow into an ocean, sea or large lake. The end of a river is called the mouth. Our local rivers are: The River Severn, The River Avon and The River Chelt.

Mountains are a landform that rises high about the surrounding area. The base of the mountain is called the foot which slopes steeply upwards until you reach a peak over 600m high!

Key questions:

- What are the major rivers around the world and where is their source/mouth?
- How and why do rivers change as they flow through the river system?
- What are the key features of the river system?
- What are the key features of a mountain?
- What are some of the problems associated with rivers and how does this affect human settlement?



River Severn – 354km
River Thames – 346km
Mississippi River – 3730km
The Amazon – 6400km

National Curriculum

- Pupils should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.
- Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use.

Geography toolkit statements:

- I can analyse evidence and draw conclusions such as making comparisons between locations using aerial photos/pictures
- I can understand and use geography terms.
- I can make more detailed fieldwork sketches/diagrams
- I can use and interpret maps, globes, atlases and digital mapping to find countries and key features.
- I can point to where counties and major cities are within the UK and their major rivers.
- I can explain how physical geography has influenced how humans have settled.

Cross curricular links:

- **Computing**
 - Create River/Mountain "Top Trump Cards"
 - Research a river or mountain using a search engine (Home learning)
 - Use digital mapping to locate mountains around the world.
- **English**
 - Poetry: "The River" by Valerie Bloom
 - Non-fiction – Explanation Text: "Why do rivers flood?"
- **Outdoor Learning**
 - Create a river system using natural resources.
 - Experiment with erosion/deposition.

Key Vocabulary

- **Confluence** – Where two rivers join together.
- **Deposition** – Where sediment settles and is no longer carried along the river.
- **Erosion** – The removal of earth and rock by natural forces (e.g. water and wind)
- **Floodplain** – The flat, low lying land immediately next to the river.
- **Foot** – The bottom of the mountain.
- **Meanders** – Where a river curves and changes direction.
- **Mountain** – Part of the landscape with steep slopes that rise over 300m.
- **Mouth** – The endpoint of a river, at which it reaches a lake, sea or ocean.
- **Ocean** – A large body of salt water which is not enclosed by land.
- **Rivers** – A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, lake or another river.
- **Sea** – A large body of salt water part of which is enclosed by land.
- **Sediment** – Different sized pieces of natural material carried in the water of a river.
- **Snowline** – Above here snow and ice cover the mountain all year.
- **Source** – This is the beginning of a river, sometimes known as its headwaters. Some come from underground springs whilst others are formed by mountain rainfall/snow.
- **Summit** – The top of a mountain.
- **Tributaries** – Streams or smaller rivers that flow into the main river.
- **Valley** – The area of low land between mountains and hills.