

# Year 5 Knowledge Organiser Geography – Rivers and Water Cycles

Key Vocabulary		Rivers of the world
<b>source</b>	The place where a river begins, often in hills or mountains where rain or melted snow collects.	The longest river in the world is the Nile, which flows around 6,650 km through 11 countries in Africa and drains into the Mediterranean Sea.
<b>tributary</b>	A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river.	The Amazon River in South America contains more water than any other river in the world. It is around 6,400 km long and is up to 11 km wide in the dry season.
<b>mouth</b>	The place where a river ends, flowing into the sea, an ocean, or a lake.	The Mississippi is the longest river in North America. Its drainage basin covers a huge part of the USA. Large boats can sail up and down the river to transport people and things to sell.
<b>meander</b>	A bend or curve in a river, formed when water erodes the land on one side and deposits material on the other.	The Volga is the longest river in Europe. It is about 3,530 km long. It flows south through Russia past many major cities until it drains into the Caspian Sea.
<b>oxbow lake</b>	A U-shaped lake formed when a meander is cut off from the main river.	The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia at 6,530 km. It flows west to east through China. The Three Gorges Dam was built on the river which is a huge hydro-electric dam.
<b>floodplain</b>	preserving a body after death by drying it out and preventing decay.	The Murray River flows from east to west across southeastern Australia from the snowy mountains to the Indian Ocean. It is about 2,530 km long.
<b>delta</b>	An area of land built up from deposited sediment at the mouth of a river, where it meets the sea.	
<b>main channel</b>	The main path that a river flows through, where most of the water travels, especially during normal river flow.	
<b>precipitation</b>	Rain, hail, sleet and snow that falls from the clouds	
<b>condensation</b>	When water vapour cools and turns into clouds	
<b>evaporation</b>	When the sun heats up water from the sea and it goes into the air.	
<b>transpiration</b>	When the sun heats up water from the leaves of trees.	

