LKS2 Geography Autumn 2 – 2026-27 From source to mouth, how does the river flow?

Word	Definition
physical geography	Natural features of an area.
human geography	The study of how human activity affects or is influenced by the earth's surface.
source	The source of a river is where it begins, usually in high ground.
mouth	A river mouth is the part of a river where the river flows into another river, a lake, a reservoir, a sea, or an ocean.
erosion	Erosion is the wearing away of the land by forces such as water, wind, and ice.
deposition	Rocks and sediments eroded from one part of the river is deposited in another part.
tributary	When a smaller stream or river meets another and merge together, the smaller stream or river is known as a tributary.
waterfall	Waterfalls form where water rushes down steep hillsides in upland areas and erodes the rocks.
ox bow lake	An oxbow lake is a U-shaped body of water that forms when a wide meander (bend) from the main stem of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water.
meander	A meander is a winding curve or bend in a river.

Our Key Questions are:

1. How are rivers formed and what are their features?
2. What are the characteristics of the different stages of a river?
3. How and why do rivers flood?
4. What are the main rivers of Europe?
5. What are the main rivers of the world?

River Features



Major Rivers in UK



River Thames
The Thames flows through Southern England – in particular through London, the capital city. It is the longest river that flows entirely through England. It is 215 miles long.

River Severn
The longest river in the UK, at 220 miles long, and the second longest in the British Isles. It originates in the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales and flows into England.

River Tay
The longest river in Scotland, at 119 miles long, and the sixth longest river in the UK. It originates in the Highlands and flows through Perth and Dundee before flowing into the Firth of Tay.

River Bann
The longest river in Northern Ireland. It is 80 miles long and known for salmon and eel fisheries.

Sticky Knowledge

Over 75% of the Earth's surface is covered in water, but most of it is unavailable for us to use as it is locked away in icebergs or is too salty.

The River Nile is the world's longest river and runs into the Mediterranean. It is 4160 miles long.

The Amazon River is situated in Brazil and is 4000 miles long and runs through the Amazon Rainforest.

A river runs from the source to the mouth. It can have many features such as springs, waterfalls, meanders and ox bow lakes.

Rivers carry water and nutrients to areas all around the earth. They play a very important part in the water cycle, acting as drainage channels for surface water. Rivers drain nearly 75% of the earth's land surface. Rivers provide excellent transport links for towns and cities.

The water cycle includes the processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation which recycles the water constantly.

Rivers are naturally formed, whereas canals are manmade. Rivers were originally used to transport goods before canals.