

GEOGRAPHY UNIT: OUR CHANGING WORLD

RIVERS AND COASTS

CORE LEARNING OF THIS UNIT:

- Locate geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.
- 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.



KEY FACTS

- The longest river in the world is the River Nile (6,695 km long)
- The longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn (354 km long)
- The **coast** is where land meets the sea.
- Coastal erosion is the loss or displacement of land, or the long-term removal of sediment and rocks along the coastline due to the action of waves, currents and tides.
- Waves erode softer rock on the coast into bays, leaving headlands of harder rock protruding into the sea.
- Human features can contribute to erosion on the coast. Buildings on cliff tops can increase the instability of cliffs, resulting in landslips.

PRIOR LEARNING

Year 4

Water, Water (The water cycle and Rivers)

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
Source	The point at which a river starts.
Tributaries	Small streams that join the larger river.
Erosion	The wearing away of rock along the coastline.
Deposition	Material is 'dropped' or deposited.
Meander	The natural bend in a river.
Oxbow lake	A section of a meander that becomes isolated from the main river channel and eventually dries out.
Mouth	The point where the river ends.
Headland	a part of the coastline that juts out into the sea and usually ends in a cliff.
Landslide	the downward sliding of a large mass of earth and rock
Longshore drift	the process whereby beach material is gradually shifted along a beach by waves meeting the shore at an oblique angle.
Stacks	a detached pillar of rock on a sea coast separated from the mainland by erosion.
Arches	a coastal feature formed when waves erode through a headland.

