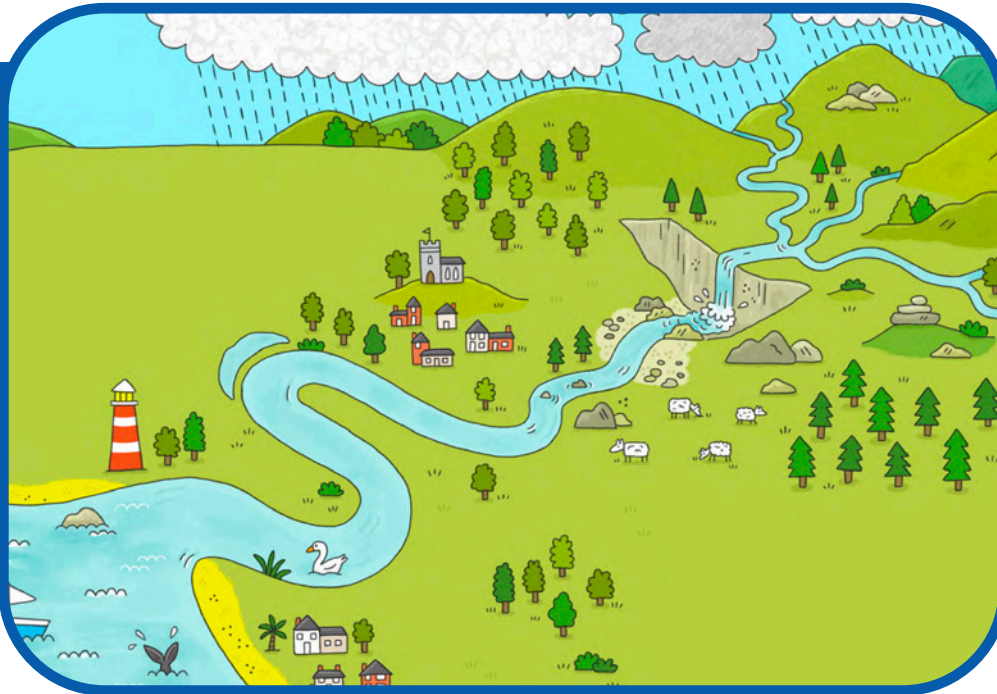


Unravelling Rivers



This pack consists of activity sheets for individual and group work, and whiteboard pictures for class discussion.

Teacher guidance notes can be downloaded [here](#).

What do you know about rivers?

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Key words

Use these key words as a reminder while you work.



Weir

Manufacturing

Erosion

Wharves

Precipitation

Source

Cargo

Tributaries

Waterfall

Meander

Current

Rapids

Settlements

Estuary

Barges

Navigable

Environment

Natural

Navigations

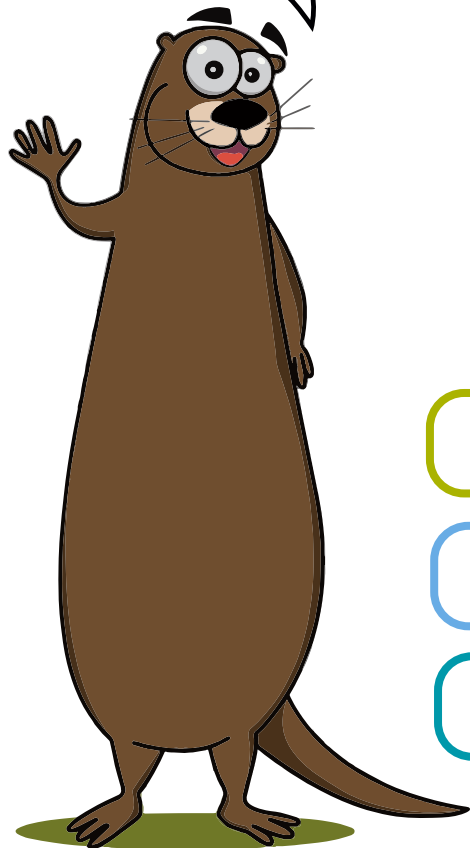
Hydro-electric power

Make sure you learn the correct spellings.



Sensory words

Use these key words as a reminder while you work.



Slippery

Cool

Screech

Fragrant

Shallow

Gritty

Flowing

Bright

Pungent

Gurgle

Spray

Deep

Slimy

Tickle

Churning

Torrential

Swirling

Tumbling

Glistening

Peaceful

Reflection

Meandering

Beautiful

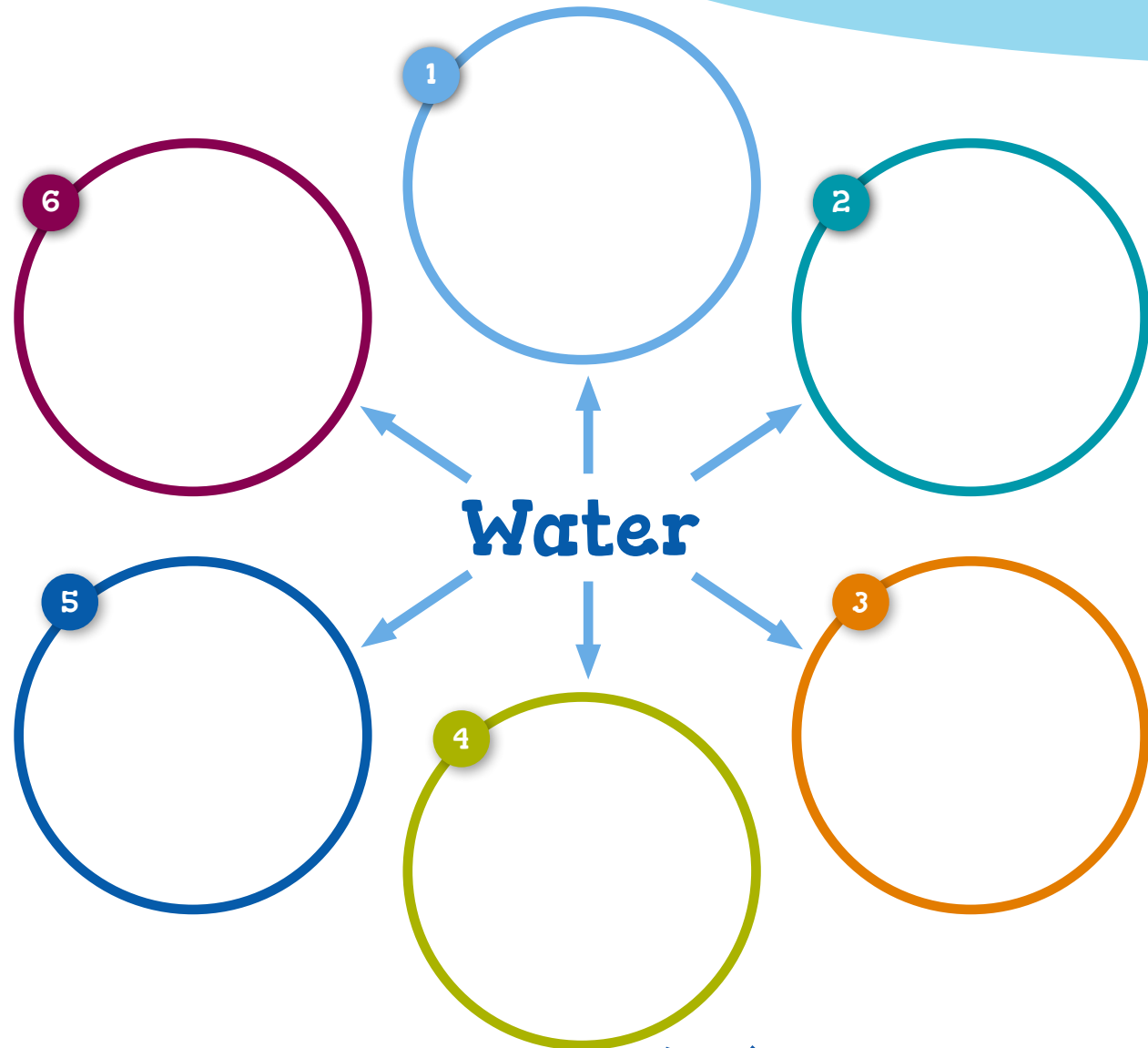
Murmuring

Make sure you learn the correct spellings.



Where can we find water?

Write your answers in the circles.



The Water Cycle

Highlight the most important words from each description.



Evaporation

Evaporation is when the sun heats up water from rivers, lakes or oceans and turns it into vapour and steam. The vapour leaves then rises into the air.

Condensation

Water vapour in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid forming clouds. This is called condensation.

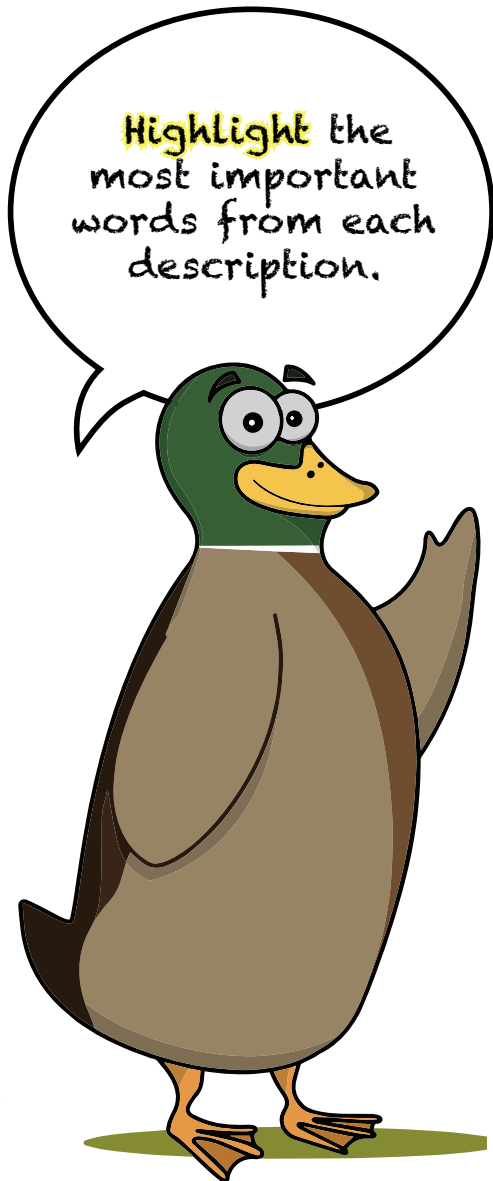
Precipitation

Precipitation occurs when so much water has condensed that the air cannot hold it any more. The clouds get heavy and the water falls back to earth in the form of rain, hail or snow.

Collection

When water falls back to earth as precipitation it may fall back into the oceans, lakes or rivers or it may fall onto the land where it often soaks in and becomes 'ground water'.

The Water Cycle



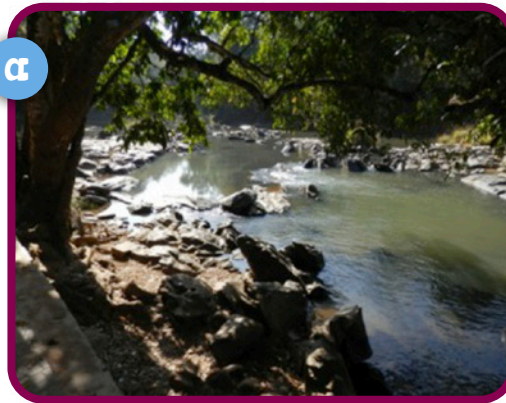
- 1 evaporation → condensation → collection → precipitation
- 2 evaporation → collection → precipitation → condensation
- 3 evaporation → condensation → precipitation → collection
- 4 precipitation → condensation → evaporation → collection

Write your answer below:

○ → → →

What is the difference between a canal and a river?

Which of
these pictures
is a canal?



What is the difference between rivers and canals?

Write your answers in the boxes.



Rivers	Canals

What is the difference between rivers and canals?

Write your answers in the boxes.



Rivers	Canals
Are natural – a river chooses its own path	Are man made – you can choose where to build a canal
Not always navigable	Are built to be navigated. Built to the width necessary for the boats which are to use it
Grow from a source, flow downhill and increase in size	Use locks or lifts to move boats uphill
Can have strong currents and be very fast flowing	Usually have quite weak currents except near locks
Can suffer from droughts and floods	Very rarely suffer from drought or flood as water entering canal can be regulated

River words

Meanings

- A. Where the river begins
- B. A place where water falls over rocks to a lower level
- C. Place where people live
- D. The place where a river gets to the sea
- E. Snow or rain

Using the meanings above, match a meaning to each word in the table.

Word	Meaning
Source	
Settlement	
Waterfall	
Precipitation	
Estuary	

Where does a river begin?



The source of a river

Label the arrows with a word or sentence that describes each feature.



The upper course of a river

The upper course of a river is usually fast flowing. The water travels quickly!



The middle course of a river

In the middle
course of a
river the water
becomes slower
and often has
many curves
in it.



Settlements

Settlements are often built on the middle course of a river.



- A. Boats can sail up to this part of the river from the sea.
- B. People can build bridges safely over the water. Nearer the sea the bridges would need to be much bigger.
- C. People need the river to carry heavy cargo from place to place.
- D. People can wash and drink the water, once it is cleaned.
- E. Things from all over the world can be transported/brought here.

Put the statements above in order of importance.

Write your answers below.



1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

The lower course of a river



What describing words can be used for this photo?

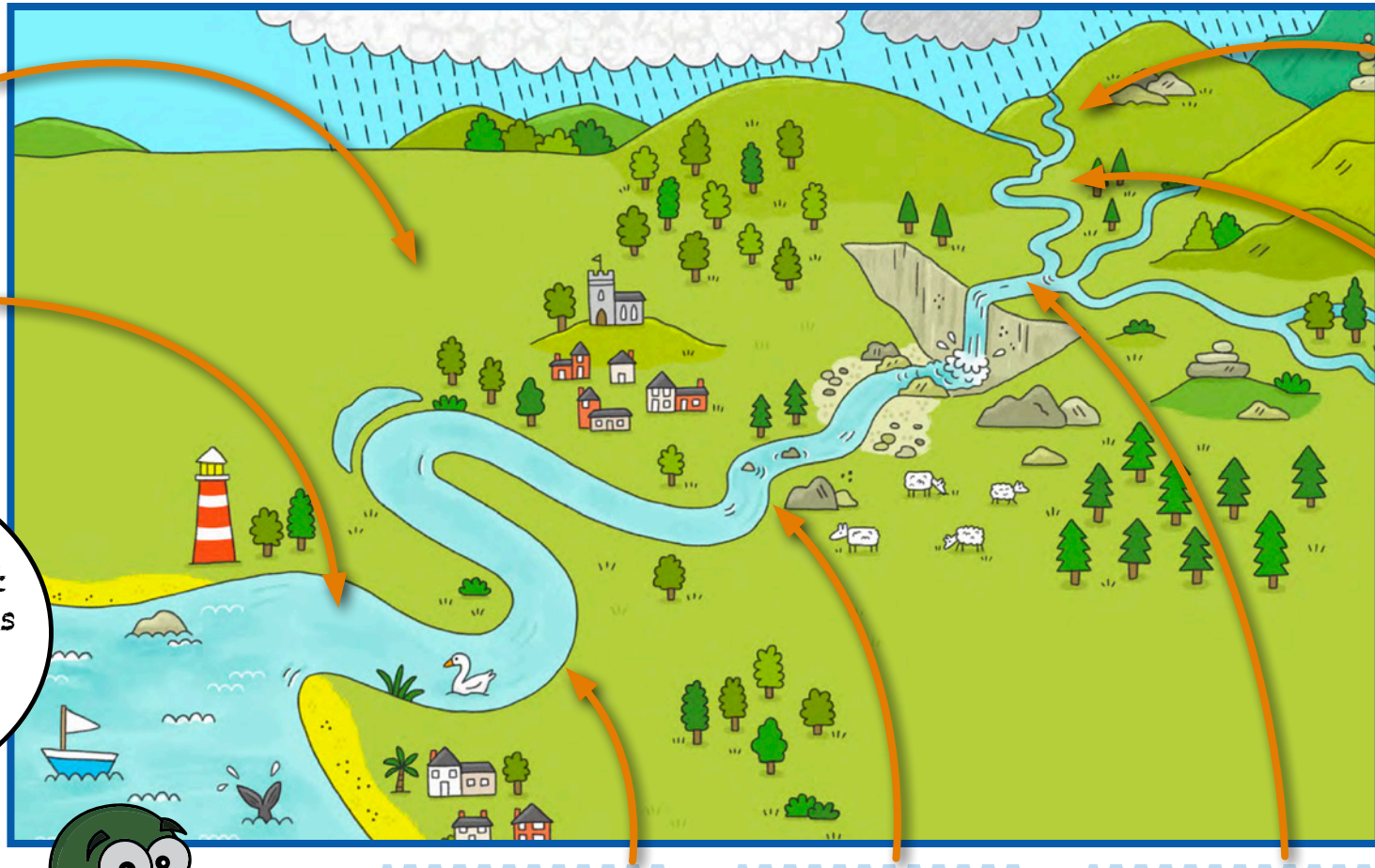


The mouth of a river

The mouth of a river, or estuary, is where it reaches the sea.



The three courses of a river



How much do you know about the three courses of a river? Let's test your knowledge.



The three courses of a river

L

M

H

S

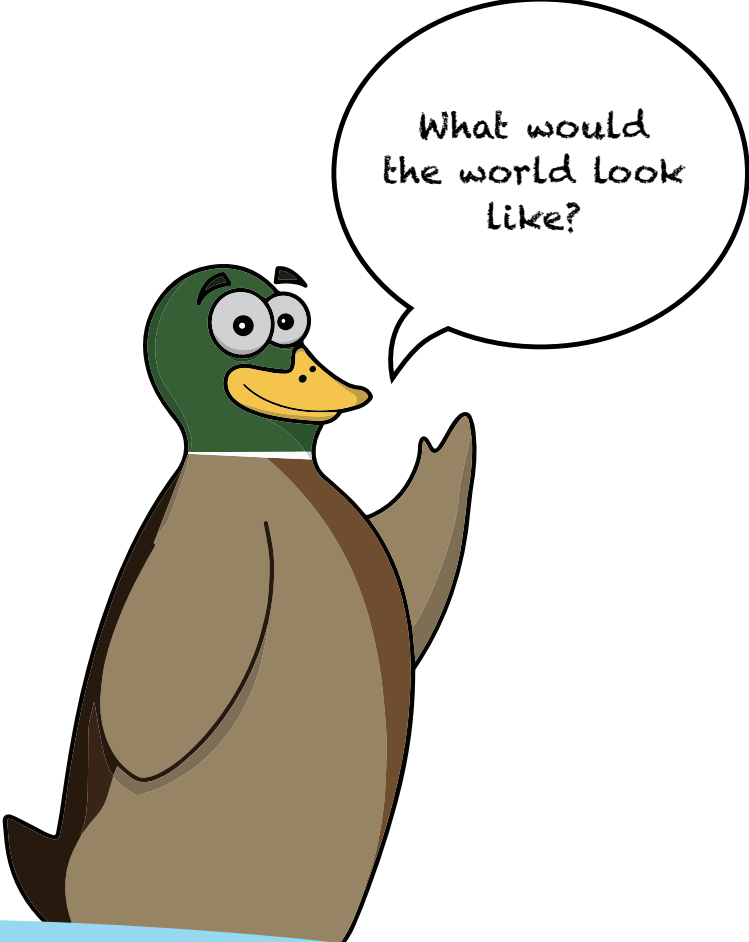
L C

M C


U C

How much do you know about the three courses of a river? Let's test your knowledge.


What if rivers did not exist on earth?



What would the world look like?



What would happen to fish and animals?



Would that mean there was no rain?

On a journey along the river

Imagine you are travelling from the start of a river, its source, to its mouth where it reaches the sea. The journey takes four days. Write a diary entry for each day describing what you see and hear, and what you are thinking.

Day One	
Day Two	
Day Three	
Day Four	

Think about everything that my friends and I have taught you about rivers.



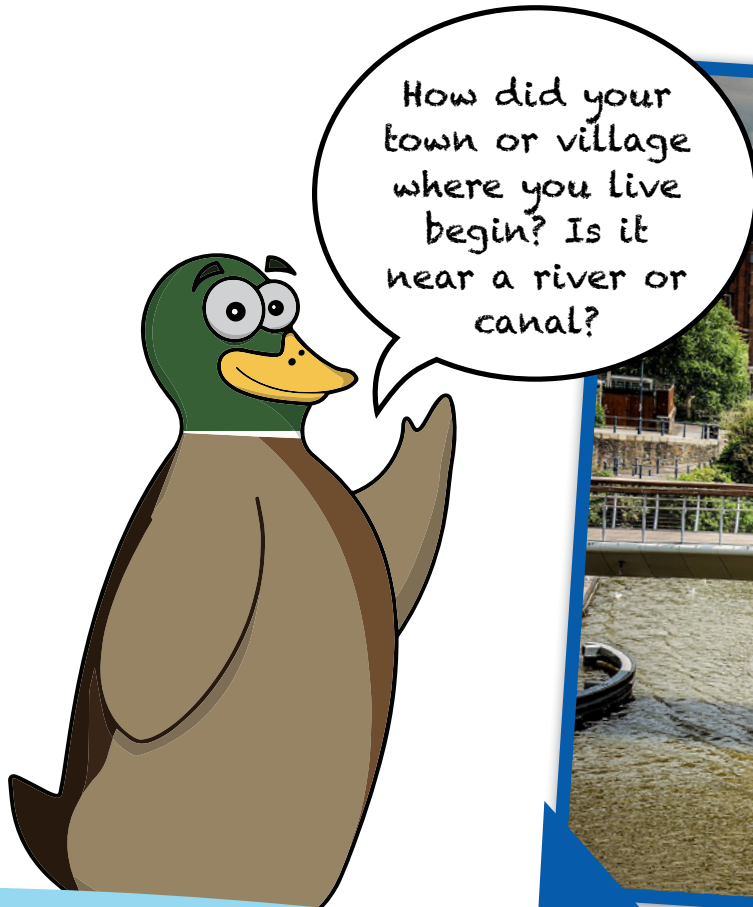
On a journey along the river

Imagine you are travelling from the start of a river, its source, to its mouth where it reaches the sea. The journey takes four days. Write a diary entry for each day describing what you see and hear, and what you are thinking.

Day One	source, upper, flows, steep, tributaries
Day Two	middle, meanders, settlements, bridges, cargo
Day Three	lower, flooding, wide, slow
Day Four	estuary, salt water, fresh water, tides



Why do towns and villages grow up on rivers?



Visit:
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