Geography **Title of Topic : Raging Rivers Term: Summer 2**

National Curriculum Geography

Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom.

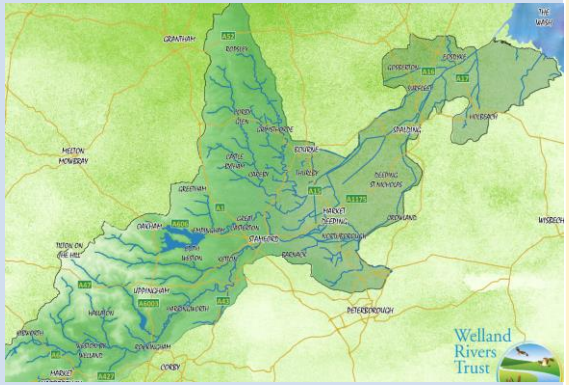
Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.

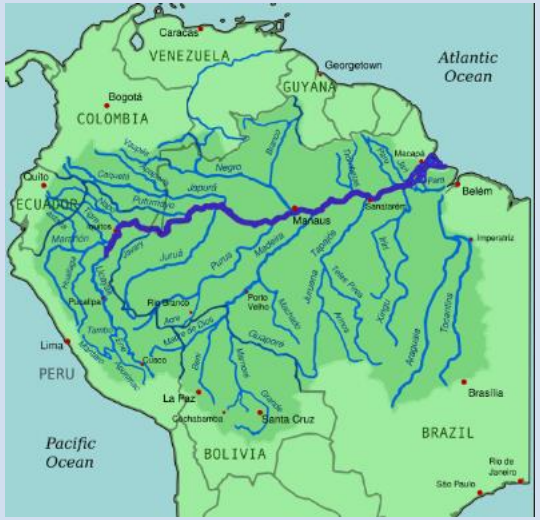
Human geography, including types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied. Use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world. 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.

Maps



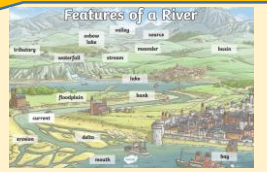
Local case study
The River Welland



World Rivers
The Amazon River

Key Questions

How are rivers formed?



How do rivers change?

What features do rivers have?

What can we learn about world rivers?

Vocabulary

Bank: The riverbank is the land at the side of the river.

Basin: The land water must cross to reach a river. It collects all available water from tributaries, creeks and streams in its area.

Bed: The bed is the bottom of a river. A riverbed can be made of sand, rocks or mud depending on the river.

Canal: A man-made waterway that is used so that boats can transport goods across the country.

Current: The strength and speed of the river. Water always flows downhill; the steeper the ground is, the stronger the current will be.

Confluence: The junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width.

Source: The start of a river is its source. This could be a spring on a hillside, a lake, a bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.

Tributary: A smaller river or stream that joins a big river.

Year 3&4 **Title of Topic : Raging Rivers** **Term: Summer 2** **Geography**

	Key Learning:
1	**How are rivers formed?** Many rivers are formed when rain flows down from hills but sometimes the source is a lake, sometimes it is a marsh or a bog and sometimes it is a spring where water comes up from the ground. When two rivers meet, they will join and form a single bigger river. Rivers have the power to erode and shape the landscape over time.
2	**How do the rivers grow and change?** Rivers function to get from their beginnings, or headwaters, to sea level through the most efficient path possible. Rivers change in kinetic energy, water flow rates, velocity, discharge and more as they go from start to finish. You may notice when looking at the path of a river that it gains width and depth as it gets closer to its endpoint at sea level. The river gains energy as it flows down the slope (or gradient) from its headwaters to sea level which can vary depending on the landscape and the river.
3	**What features do rivers have?** **The Upper Course**: Rain falling in highland areas flows downwards and collects in channels, forming a stream. As the stream continues to run downhill, it is joined by other streams and increases in size and speed. The point where two rivers join is called a confluence. **The Middle Course**: As a river reaches its middle course, the fast-flowing water causes erosion, which makes it deeper and wider. The river erodes left and right, forming horse-shoe like loops called meanders. **The Lower Course:** In the lower course, a river is in flatland and flows slowly. The force of the water is lower than in the other stages, so the river deposits all the bits of eroded land it has been carrying with it.
4	**What can we learn about our local river?** Rising in the Hothorpe Hills above Market Harborough and flowing gently through the rolling countryside of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Lincolnshire, the Welland Valley treats residents and visitors to an array of beautiful scenery. However, extensive dredging, land drainage and straightening in the 20th century damaged the historical character of this river and its journey to The Wash.
5	**What can we learn about World Rivers?** Rivers are the lifeblood of our world. Providing water supplies to ecosystems across the globe, these natural flowing watercourses provide habitats, energy, transportation and sources of recreation. The Amazon is the largest river (in terms of volume) in the world, the Nile is best known for its presence amidst a desert and the Ganges is thought to be the most spiritual body of water to Hindus.
6	**Why do we alter the course of rivers?** Dams are huge man-made structures that act as barriers on a river. Today, the main reason people build dams is to produce electricity. They are also built to restrict and control the flow of water in a river. Throughout history, dams have been used to prevent flooding and to irrigate (water) farmland. Canals are waterways that are built by people and used for shipping, travel, and irrigation. Canals have been an important way to move goods and carry people for more than 5,000 years.