

Thursday 14th January 2021

Remote learning - Geography

The source of a river

As we have learned from the water cycle, water moves in a continuous cycle, but how are rivers made? Where do they start?

Have a look at these slides, which explain how this happens.

When you have had a look (and I don't expect you to remember them all!) you could create a picture, diagram, purple mash drawing, of how a river is formed or how one flows. You chose which.

The Source of a River

- The 'source' is the name of the location where a river begins.
- Sources of rivers are often areas where high amounts of rainfall or melting snow gather.
- The sources of rivers can also be underground springs.



A Spring

- A natural occurrence where water flows to the surface of the Earth from underground.
- A spring can also be known as a **rising** or a **resurgence**.



A waterfall



Streams

- What is a stream?
- A stream has a current.
- This is when the flow of water is influenced by gravity as the water moves downhill to reduce its potential energy.



Channel

- When a river flows across a stretch of land it wears away the earth to form a channel.
- The river then flows through the channel.
- Channels often connect two bigger areas of water.



Meanders

- A **meander** is a bend in a river.
- It is formed when the moving water in a stream erodes the outer banks and widens its valley and deposits the particles on the inner banks.
- When a meander gets cut off from the main stream, an oxbow lake is formed.



An Oxbow Lake



A Valley

- A valley is formed by flowing water.
- A very deep river valley can sometimes be called a canyon or a gorge.
- Can you think of any famous canyons or gorges?



The Grand Canyon & Cheddar Gorge



A Lake



Flood Plain

- A flood plain is an area of land next to a stream or river that experiences flooding during periods of rainfall.
- Have you heard the phrase 'the river has broken its banks'?
- What does this mean?



Tributary

- A **tributary** is a stream or a small river that flows into a river or a lake.
- A tributary does not flow directly into a sea or ocean.
- A **confluence**, where two or more bodies of water meet together, usually refers to the joining of tributaries.



A confluence

