

Ravens Wood School

KS3 Curriculum Plan

Subject: Rivers

Overarching Topic: Raging Rivers			
Why is this topic being studied at this time?	Rivers have shaped much of the landscape within the UK and have been significant in determining settlement patterns and shaped our past in terms of transport and provision of resources. It is important for students to understand how river processes create key physical features and how these are impacted by and impact upon human activity.		
How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?	A key physical geography topic this topic provides the understanding needed to investigate processes and key features in a variety of river environments. This topic links to weather and climate studied in KS3 including the water cycle, whilst some of the transportation and erosional processes are also incorporated into Coasts.		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key features of a river and its drainage basin? • What are the three different courses of a river? • What features are found in each course? • How is flooding caused and what the key impacts? • What key elements of a river change as you move downstream? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key erosional and transportation process that influence the river profile? • What are the key features in the upper course and how are they formed? • How are meanders and oxbow lakes formed in the middle course? • What are the features of the lower course? • How are the lower features of floodplains, levees and deltas formed? • How does human activity have an impact on the likelihood of flooding? • How does a flood impact on people and the environment? • What are the key attributes of flood defence techniques and how can they be used to reduce flooding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do different processes interact to create distinctive landforms in each of the river courses? • How does human activity impact a river landscape both positively and negatively? • How does differing levels of development have an impact on flooding and the management of these hazards.
The Key Skills/ Techniques	The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the essential, core and ambitious knowledge		
	Skill/Technique	How will this skill be developed?	

	1. Explanation using geographical processes and terminology	Students will use their understanding of the different river processes to explain, including using diagrams, how key landforms are created in each course of the river.
	2. Map skills	Using maps, identify different features of a river and the risk of flooding related to both human and physical factors.
	3. Evaluation	Students will understand the different causes of flooding and will rank these in terms of importance. Within specific case studies, students will also classify and evaluate key impacts of flooding before moving on to evaluate which management techniques should be used to reduce/mitigate against future flooding.
	4. Research skills	Independent research into a major river system. Students to create a fact file to include key features and human influences