

Geography

Investigating water

This half term, our focus is to investigate water. We are going to: explore rivers and river use, flooding and the importance of clean water in less economically developed areas of the world. We will build upon our previous knowledge of the course of a river and how this relates to the water cycle which we studied last half term. Our aim is to become more aware of the importance of everyone accessing clean water and to become more knowledgeable of the potential dangers that water (flooding) can be to us locally. We will stretch our investigation overseas to see how water is desired in LEDCs.

Key facts

- 785 million people don't have clean water close to their homes.
- 2 billion people don't have a decent toilet of their own.
- The longest river in the UK is the River Severn (220 miles) starting in Wales.
- Britain's rivers have been integral in the growth of our towns and cities, they provide fresh water for drinking, they provide travel links, rich habitats for wildlife, and keep our businesses running and our farms thriving.
- In the UK five million people are vulnerable to flooding each year.
- Heavy rainfall - if there is heavy rainfall there is less chance of it being soaked up by the soil (infiltration) so it runs off into the river.
- As cities are becoming more urbanised, there's less permeable ground available to absorb rainwater

Key Vocabulary

Upper course	The early stages of the river where the gradient is steep and the river is narrow.
Middle course	The rivers middle stage where the volume of water becomes larger and the river becomes deeper than in the upper course.
Lower course	The volume of water in the river is at its greatest and the land around the river is flat. The mouth of the river is in the lower course.
LEDC	A less economically developed country.
MEDC	A more economically developed country.
Flooding	The covering of usually dry land in a larger amount of water.
Ox bow lake	A curved bend in the middle course of the river where the stream has cut across a meander
Canal	A man made waterway created to transport boats
Flood plain	An area of low lying land adjacent to a river
Ordinance survey	Scaled maps which show both human and physical features of an area

Geography

Prior Learning

Year 1:

> Here I am

Comparing human and physical features of an area

Year 2:

> Mini Mappers

Using a key to find features on a map

Year 3:

> United Kingdom

Exploring physical landmarks e.g. rivers

Year 4:

> A village in Brazil

To understand how natural resources (e.g. water) are distributed

Following on:

Year 5:

> Investigating world trade

Exploring land use and settlements

Year 6:

> improving the environment

Investigating the distribution of water and other natural resources

Water requirements in an LEDC

1/13 people in LEDCs are forced to drink unclean water. Also, according to Water Aid, 1/4 people in the world don't have access to their own decent toilet. Cholera, Typhoid, and Dysentery are all spread by unclean water. Unclean water has led to a massive 3.4 million deaths a year.



Flooding

Floods are caused by extreme weather conditions. Floods may be caused by: rivers overflowing their banks after heavy rainfall, the sea flooding the land, as a result of heavy winds pushing the sea up against the coast.

