



Year 4 Geography

Why are rivers important?

How are rivers used?

- Rivers are important habitats for plants and animals.
- They provide a supply of food and drink for humans and animals.
- Rivers can help crops grow by dispersing nutrients and making soil more fertile.
- Rivers contain valuable minerals such as gold and diamonds which people can find and sell.
- They offer transport routes for people and goods.
- Rivers can be used for leisure activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.
- Many settlements and communities are built along rivers.
- Some people live on rivers in houseboats.
- Water from rivers can be used for irrigation on farmland.
- Renewable energy, called hydroelectric power, can be generated by moving water.

Vocabulary	
Evaporation	Warm water turns from a liquid to a gas (water vapour).
Condensation	Water vapour rises into the air and turns into tiny water droplets.
Precipitation	Water falls from the clouds to the ground in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.
Delta	A wide area where a river meets the sea which features a build up of sand and sediment.
Estuary	An area where fresh water from a river meets the salt water from the sea.
Floodplain	An area of flat land either side of a river which can become flooded if the river gets too full.
Meander	A bend or curve in a river.
Oxbow lake	A bend in the river that has separated from the main river.
River mouth	A place where the river flows into the sea.
Source	The place where a river starts.
Tributary	A stream that flows into a larger stream or river.
Valley	An area of lowland between two hills or mountains, usually with a river running through it.

