

Geography Knowledge Organizer - Rivers and The Water Cycle

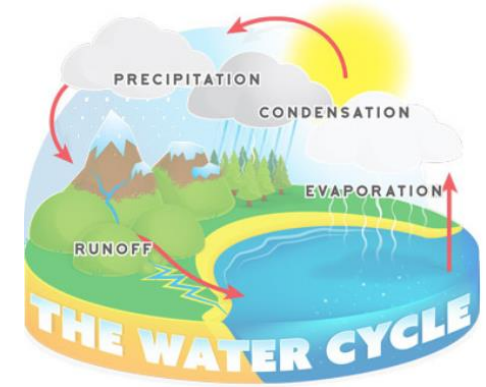
What is a river?

A **river** is a natural body of water that flows over land.

- Rivers often begin in mountains and hills.
- They flow downhill.
- Rivers shape land, because they carve out valleys and carry rocks with them.
- Usually, rivers flow into a sea or ocean.

- The **Severn River** is the longest river in the United Kingdom, covering a distance of 220 miles.
- The **Thames River** is England's second longest river with a length of 215 miles.
- The **River Trent** is the United Kingdom's third longest river with a total length of 185 miles.

Map of Major Rivers in UK



The **water cycle** is a **continuous process** that describes how **water** moves around the **Earth**.

Here are the key stages:

1. Evaporation

Water evaporates into the air. The sun **heats up** water on land, in rivers, lakes and seas and turns it into water vapour. The water vapour rises into the air.

2. Condensation

Water vapour condenses into clouds. Water vapour in the air **cools** down and changes back into tiny drops of liquid water, forming clouds.

3. Precipitation

Water falls as precipitation. The clouds get **heavy** and water falls back to the ground in the form of rain or snow.

4. Collection

Water returns to the sea. Rain water runs over the land and collects in lakes or rivers, which take it **back to the sea**. The cycle starts all over again.

Additional Vocabulary

waterfall
flow
estuary
mouth
river bed
sediment
erosion
salt water
fresh water

Rivers Topic Word Mat

