Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	Rivers	YEAR 4	TERM

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

A river is the path that water takes as it flows along a channel downhill with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom.

If there is lots of rain, snow or melting ice, rivers often overflow beyond the top of their banks and begin to flow onto floodplains at either side.

Settlements have often been built along rivers to allow access to water for drinking and other needs such as irrigating crops.

Rivers can be used to transport goods and people enjoy travelling on them for leisure.

Some rivers meet the sea at a slow pace and this creates a muddy or sandy area known as a delta.

Rivers can meet the sea in an estuary where the freshwater from the river mixes with the saltwater from the sea.

River Management

Sometimes river flood causing damage to people's home or damaging crops.

People have found ways to manage rivers for example:

Dams are barriers that stop or restrict the flow of water or underground streams. Reservoirs created by dams provide water for activities such as irrigation, drinking water and generating electricity.

Rivers

River Severn – The longest river in the UK starting in the Cambrian Mountains, Wales leaving at the Severn Estuary and entering the Bristol Channel.

River Nile – The longest river in the world in Africa. It starts as two rivers in Tanzania and Ethiopia. It then joins to form one river in Sudan before running through Egypt and out to the Mediterranean Sea. The river Nile has a delta.

WHAT? – Key vocabulary

Physical geography	The natural features that are in the environment.
Human geography	How humans interact with each other and the environment.
Bank	The land at the side of a river
Canal	Man-made water channels for flow, vehicles and irrigation
Channel	a path of a narrow body of water where water flows
Dam	A large wall or barrier that obstructs or stops the flow of a river.
Delta	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea at a very slow speed
Erosion	When materials like rocks and soil are moved by water these are known as sediments
Estuary	Mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
Floodplain	Flat area around a river that often gets flooded
Ford	A shallow place in a river that allows someone to walk or drive across
Irrigation	Supply of water to land or crops to help growth
Lock	A device to raise and lower boats between stretches of water of different levels.
Mouth	The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake
Natural resources	Something found in nature and used by people.
Sediment	Loose sand, clay and soil that settle at the bottom of a river.
Source	The start of a river
Tributary	Smaller river which joins onto the main channel of a river
Waterfall	A waterfall is a cascade of water over a hard rock step in the upper course of a river
Weir	Low dam built across the rover to raise the level of water

Diagrams and Symbols



The Nile the longest river in the world.

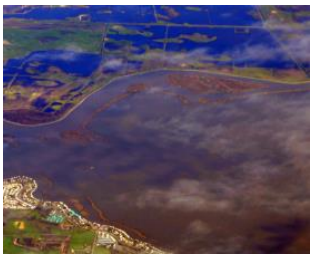
Rivers are depicted on maps by blue lines showing the course of the river.



The course of the River Severn

Diagrams and Symbols

A delta



The Severn Estuary



The Aswan High Dam



The Clywedog Dam

