

Year 4: Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers

Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers: The characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world, including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them.

WHAT?



River features: A variety of physical features can be found along the course of a river.

delta A triangular piece of land at the mouth of a river that has formed because of a build up of sediment.

floodplain An area of flat land next to a river that floods when the river bursts its banks.

interlocking spurs Ridges that are formed when a river meanders around areas of harder rock.

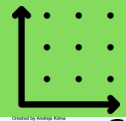
meander A bend in a river or stream.

oxbow lake A curved lake that was once a meander in a river.

V-shaped valley A deep, straight channel that has been cut into the rock by erosion.

waterfall A cascade of water that falls from a higher level to a lower level.

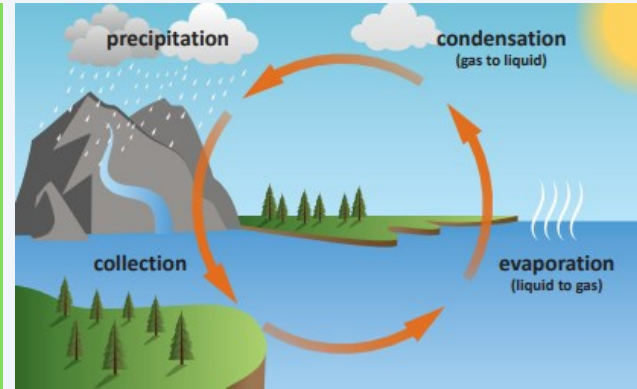
Grid reference: A way of locating a position using numbers on a grid (either 4 or 6).



Landscapes: All the visible features of an area of land.



Water Cycle: The journey water takes as it travels from rivers, lakes, seas and oceans into the sky and then back down to the ground. Water changes state as it goes around the cycle in four stages: evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.



Altitudinal zones: In mountainous areas, there are large differences in altitude. These differences mean that the climate, landscape and oxygen levels at the bottom of a mountain can be very different from those at the top. These differences create altitudinal zones, with each zone supporting a range of different plants and animals.



Flooding: The covering or submerging of normally dry land with a large amount of water.



River stages:

Upper course
Middle course
Lower course



Habitats: Rivers are large running waters created mainly by natural processes but often greatly altered by centuries of human activity. This particular feature tells us more about where a river or mountain is.



Mouth: The place where the river enters the ocean.



Types of mountain:

Fold Mountains

Volcanic Mountains

Fault—Block Mountains

Dome Mountains

Plateau Mountains

GLOSSARY



Solution: When minerals are dissolved and carried in water.



Transportation: when rocks and soil that have been dislodged and worn away by erosion are transported in flowing water.



Erosion: The wearing away and removal of rock and soil by means of wind or water.



Deposition: When flowing water slows down. Eroded rock and soil that have been transported are left behind.



Sediment: Very small pieces of sand, soil and stone that form through the process of erosion.



Contaminate: The process of making something poisonous or less pure.



Topography: The physical appearance of land, usually relating to its shape and surface.