

# **Year 4: The Water Cycle: Aquatic Biomes and River Systems**



### **Key Knowledge**

✓There are two aquatic biomes: marine and freshwater;

✓ Freshwater biomes make up only 0.01% of the Earth's surface, but contain over 100, 000 uniquely adapted species of flora and fauna;

✓ Many freshwater rivers and lakes are polluted, which harms wildlife and affects drinking water;

✓ The Water Cycle includes: evaporation, condensation and precipitation (rainfall);

✓ All rivers run from their source to their mouth and all rivers empty into a sea or ocean;

✓Rivers have been used by human beings for thousands of years;

✓ Rivers transport water and nutrients to all of Earth's biomes;

✓The world's largest river by volume of water is the Amazon and the world's longest river from source to mouth is the Nile – 6650 kilometres (km);

√The United Kingdom's (UK) longest river is the

Severn – 354 km.

Major Rivers
of England

O km 100
O ml 50 333

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### Big Idea

Most of the world's water is found in the seas and oceans. However, salt water cannot be used for drinking and irrigation. Freshwater is rather more scarce. Lakes, rivers and water-bearing rocks are the main sources of the supply of freshwater. Aquatic biomes are home to a diversity of flora and fauna and are fundamental to all life on Earth, as they support all of the Earth's biomes. River systems are central to the water cycle, as they act as drainage channels for excess surface water, which is returned to the seas and oceans to complete the water cycle. River systems have and continue to support human settlements and have been the basis of human transportation systems for thousands of years. However, the availability of freshwater is becoming increasing challenging and complex in some parts of the world. Around the world, more people now have access to a mobile telephone, than access to a





#### **Concepts**



Space







Place Environment

nent Physical Processes

## Vocabulary

**aquatic biome**: there are two types of aquatic biomes: marine and freshwater.

Water Cycle: the circulation of water in the atmosphere and on the Earth's surface, triggered by the heat of the sun.

river: the water that flows down a channel from upland to lowland areas.

**source**: where a river begins, usually in higher ground.

**tributary**: when one stream or river meets another and merge together, the smaller stream or river is known as the tributary.

**confluence**: the point at which two rivers merge together, to form one larger river.

**meander**: a winding curve or bend in the river.

**mouth**: where the river meets the sea or ocean.

'You can travel the seas, poles and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world, you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about geography.' Michael Palin.