

## Our Precious Water

**Prior Learning**

We have learnt what an ocean is – can you remember?

We have also used the vocabulary river, sea, port, harbour – can you still define them?

We have learnt about weather in the UK.

**Our Oceans**

There are five major oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern.

The largest ocean is the Pacific Ocean. It covers around 30% of Earth's surface.

**Our Seas**

The seas surrounding the UK are known as the North Sea and the Irish Sea. There is also the English Channel separating us from Europe and the Atlantic Ocean out to the West.

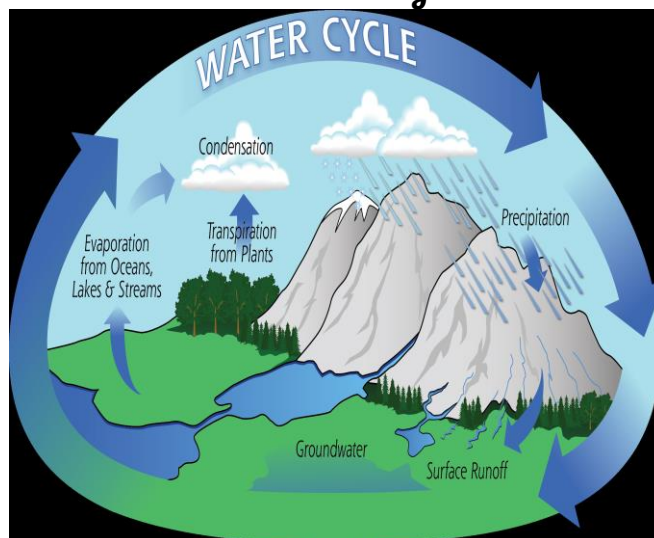
**Our Largest Rivers**

The major rivers of the world are the Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, Yellow River, Mississippi and the Parana. The Nile is considered the longest river in the world. It travels through many countries; can you find out which ones?

**Our Rivers in the UK**

The Severn is the longest river in the UK (338km). It begins in Wales and enters the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol.

Other major rivers include the Thames, Trent and Mersey. Can you find these on a map?

**The Water Cycle****Our Ice Caps**

An ice cap is a vast mass of ice. Ice caps are formed when snow that falls builds up and does not melt in the warmer weather. The ice cap at Antarctica covers the same amount of space as Mexico and the United States combined.

**Enquiry Questions...**

If a river is running down into a sea; why doesn't the river run out of water?

How did our oceans form?

Water scarcity affects around 2.8 billion people every year...how can this be if 71% of Earth's surface is water?

Where do you think the ice caps are? Why?

**Vocabulary Dozen**

<b>H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	The chemical name for water.
<b>Condensation</b>	The change of water from gas into liquid.
<b>Infiltration</b>	The process by which rain soaks through soil and moves into rocks.
<b>Evaporation</b>	The change of water from liquid into gas.
<b>Precipitation</b>	Rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls to the ground.
<b>Transpiration</b>	The process by which plants absorb water through the roots and release it through water vapour.
<b>Source</b>	The original point from which the river flows.
<b>Tributary</b>	A freshwater stream that flows into a larger stream or river.
<b>Mouth</b>	The place where the river enters a lake, larger river, sea or ocean.
<b>Meander</b>	A curve in a river.
<b>Delta</b>	A piece of land in the shape of a triangle at the mouth of a river.
<b>Estuary</b>	A place where a freshwater river meets a saltwater sea.

**Did you know?**

- The majority of Earth's fresh water is held in ice caps and glaciers.
- The deepest known part of an ocean is the Mariana Trench. Its deepest point is 11km – That's the same as walking from school to the beach...and back...5 times!
- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure. It can even be seen from the Moon!