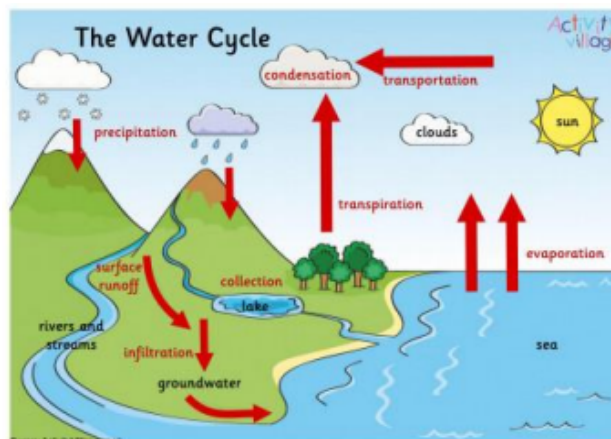


## Geography Subject Knowledge Bank

### Year 4: Rivers and the water cycle Why are they important?

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<b>precipitation</b>	rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls to the ground
<b>condensation</b>	The conversion of gas into a liquid
<b>evaporation</b>	The process of turning a liquid into a gas
<b>transpiration</b>	The evaporation of water from a plant
<b>sanitation</b>	The provision of clean drinking water and sewage for waste water
<b>distribution</b>	The way something is shared out.
<b>source</b>	From where something begins
<b>tributary</b>	A river or stream that runs into a larger river or lake
<b>pollution</b>	The introduction of harmful materials into the environment.
<b>mouth</b>	The place where a river enters the ocean or a large lake



#### Why is water important?

- Water is vital for life.
- Clean fresh water is necessary for drinking and sanitation, providing for our crops, livestock and industry, and creating and sustaining the ecosystems on which all life depends.

#### What do rivers do?

- Rivers have sources, channels, tributaries and mouths,
- Rivers receive water from a wide area and flows eventually into a lake or the sea. The water flows naturally downwards, sometimes underground and eventually to the sea.



#### What are the advantages and disadvantages of living by a river?

- Advantages: water, bathing, trade, recreation, fishing
- Disadvantages: flooding, pollution, erosion



#### What are the problems associated with water distribution?

- Humans use six times as much water today as they did 100 years ago.
- People living in developed countries use a far greater proportion of the world's water than people in less developed countries.
- Water scarcity is a problem now and will become an even larger problem in the future as water sources are reduced or polluted and population grows.
- Water is unevenly distributed around the world. Large portions of the world receive very little water from rainfall or rivers relative to their population.
- Global warming will change patterns of rainfall and water distribution. As the Earth warms, regions that currently receive an adequate supply of rain may shift.