



**What should I already know?**

- We live in Salford.
- The River Irwell runs through Salford.

**What will I know by the end of the unit?**

What is the journey of a river?

- **Source:** where the river begins.
- **Upper course:** rain collects in channels and flows downhill, creating streams. The streams join together, getting faster and bigger, forming a river. The river flows quickly, has steep sides and flows through valleys. Features: waterfalls and rapids.
- **Middle course:** fast flowing water causes erosion making the river deeper and wider. Features: meanders.
- **Lower course:** the river runs more slowly as it flows over flat land. The riverbanks are less steep. Features: floodplains, deltas and estuaries.

Why are rivers important?

- Rivers carry water and nutrients. This helps fertilise soil for farming.
- They provide habitats and food for many animals and plants.
- They provide water that can be cleaned for drinking.
- Rivers provide transport links and leisure opportunities.

How do we use rivers?



- **Leisure** e.g. fishing  
Benefits: controlled population of fish.  
Disadvantages: may leave litter and pollute the water.
- **Industry** e.g. factories  
Benefits: sections of rivers are well maintained.  
Disadvantages: chemicals pollute water and damage habitats.
- **Transport** e.g. boats  
Benefits: the cheapest method of transport.  
Disadvantages: increased river traffic can damage habitats.

Flooding

- **Human causes:** deforestation, urbanisation,
- **Physical causes:** very dry soil, very wet soil, melting snow, steep slopes, higher than normal rainfall
- **Negative effects of flooding:** damage to buildings; loss of life, injuries and illness; economic losses.
- **Positive effects of flooding:** replenishment of water sources; the spreading of nutrients enriches floodplain soil. The flooding of the Nile greatly benefitted the Egyptians.



**Vocabulary**

bank	the land at the edge of a river
bed	the bottom of a river
channel	the two banks and the bed of the river
delta	small islands made up of materials deposited by a river at its mouth
estuary	the tidal mouth of the sea
flood	when an area of dry land is submerged under water
flood basin	an area designed to flood so that areas of housing will not flood
floodplain	an area that will flood when the river overflows
land use	how the land is used e.g. leisure, industry or tourism
meander	a bend in a river
mouth	the point where the river joins the sea
ox bow lake	a lake created when a meander is cut off
pollution	harmful substances that are put into the environment
source	the place where the river begins
stream	a small, narrow river
tributary	river that joins up with another river
valley	a long ditch in the Earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains



The River Irwell

- **Source:** Deerplay Moor
- **Tributaries:** River Croal, River Irk, River Medlock
- **Mouth:** River Mersey
- **Length:** 39 miles
- In 2015, flooding devastated many homes in Salford. £11 million was spent on building a flood basin designed to prevent the future flooding of Salfordian homes.

