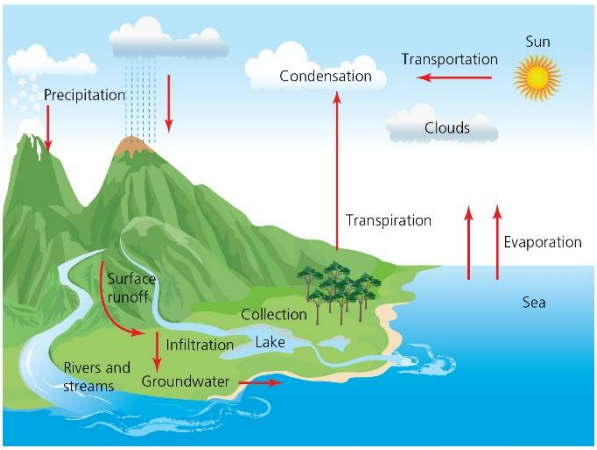
Owl Geography Knowledge Organiser Term 5

Rivers and the Water Cycle: How does the water go round and round?

Key Objectives

- To introduce the land part of the water cycle using geographical vocabulary.
- To introduce the sky (atmosphere) and its role in the water cycle.
- To learn about a major UK river – the River Thames – and to follow a river from source to mouth.
- To explore the ways in which people use and change some of the world's major rivers.
- To introduce the land part of the water cycle using geographical vocabulary.
- To model a river or stream, and to see how changes in water flow affect the river or stream.



Key Vocabulary

Precipitation	Any form of water—liquid or solid—that falls from clouds in the atmosphere back to Earth's surface.
Condensation	The process where water vapour (gas) rises into the atmosphere, cools down, and turns back into tiny liquid water droplets.
Transpiration	The process where plants release water vapour into the air through tiny pores in their leaves.
Evaporation	The process where heat from the sun turns liquid water from oceans, rivers, and lakes into a gas called water vapour.
Estuary	Where freshwater from rivers and streams mixes with salt water from the ocean in the widest part of a river's course.
Mouth	Where a river enters the sea or into a larger body of water, such as another river, a lake or ocean.
Source	Where a river starts, upstream from the mouth.

Sticky Knowledge

1. **The water cycle never stops:** Water is constantly moving around Earth in a cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.
2. **The sun powers the whole cycle:** Heat from the Sun causes water to evaporate from oceans, lakes, rivers and even puddles.
3. **Clouds are made of tiny droplets:** When water vapour cools down, it condenses into tiny droplets that gather to form clouds.
4. **Rain, snow and hail are all precipitation:** Precipitation happens when water droplets in clouds get too heavy and fall back to Earth.
5. **A river always flows downhill:** Gravity pulls water from higher ground to lower ground, which is why rivers flow from source to mouth.
6. **Rivers have a journey:** A river begins at its source, travels through its course and ends where it meets the sea, a lake, or another river.
7. **The shape of a river changes over time:** Rivers can erode, transport, and deposit materials, slowly changing the landscape.
8. **Local rivers:** The River Churn flows through North Cerney and is one of the main tributaries of the River Thames, meaning it helps feed one of the most famous rivers in the UK.