



River Great Ouse Valley: learning task: Geography Key stage 2

Curriculum link: describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: rivers, ...

Interrogate maps and information passage (below). Prior learning of the key vocabulary is essential. Some explanation of technical vocabulary in the information passage may be needed.

In groups of three or four:

Make up two or three quiz questions about the River Great Ouse (below). You must use at least one of these words in each question, in addition to "river" (from list below).

Main channel

River catchment

Downstream

Upstream

Source

Upper course

Middle course

Lower course

Tributary

Confluence

Meander

Flood Plain

Collate all questions and the class takes the quiz (in teams). Oral answers to be given in full sentences using correct terminology.

Source material: passage for all to read, map e.g. OS Landranger 153 and https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/27/River_Great_Ouse_map.png
Map of RGO catchment

The River Great Ouse

The **River Great Ouse** is a river in England, the longest of several British rivers called "Ouse". From Syresham in Northamptonshire, the Great Ouse flows through Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk to drain into the Wash and the North Sea near Kings Lynn. Authorities disagree both on the river's source and its length, with one quoting 160 mi (260 km) and another 143 mi (230 km). Mostly flowing north and east, it is the fifth longest river in the UK.

The Great Ouse has been historically important for commercial navigation, and for draining the low-lying region through which it flows; its best-known tributary is the Cam, which runs through Cambridge. Its lower course passes through drained wetlands and fens and has been extensively modified, or channelised, to relieve flooding and provide a better route for barge traffic. The unmodified river would have changed course regularly after floods.

Passing through Bedford, it flows on into Cambridgeshire through St Neots, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Hemingford Grey and St Ives, reaching Earith. Here, the river enters a short tidal section before branching in two. The artificial, very straight Old Bedford River and New Bedford River, which remain tidal, provide a direct link north-east towards the lower river at Denver in Norfolk.
(based on Wikipedia entry for The River Great Ouse 20.10.24)