

Title: The Structure of Rivers

In this **self-guided journey through rivers**, you will

- Come up with questions you have about rivers.
- Visit websites to help build background about rivers.
- Draw illustrations of river terms, based on what you have read. How well can you visualize (or picture) the term?
- Check your work by showing your teacher, then using an answer key.
- See if you answered all your questions about rivers!



FOR EACH PART BELOW, WRITE THE HEADING FOR THAT PART (FOR EXAMPLE, PART A) AND WRITE YOUR ANSWERS BELOW THE HEADING.

Part A – What do you need to know to understand “rivers”?

Write down **5 questions** in your notebook that you think would help you understand what a river is.



Part B – Visit this website: [Introduction to Rivers](#)

Use the information there to help you **develop a definition** for each of these words:

river channel bed banks source

Based on your definitions, try to **draw a picture of a river that includes each of the 5 parts above. Label them.**

Show your definitions and drawing to your teacher for your first check-in.

Get an answer key and check your work. Add to your definitions and adjust your drawing or change it if needed.

Part C – Visit this website: [Where Does a River Start](#)

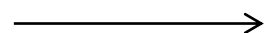
Explain how a river can form from a

- a) Spring
- b) Rain or melting snow
- c) Lake
- d) Bog



Draw an **illustration of each situation above** and **label the source** that produces the river.

Show your notes and drawing to your teacher for your second check-in.



Part D – Visit this website: [What Are The Key Points of a River's Anatomy?](#)

Write a sentence to explain each of the following terms, and draw an illustration of what you think it looks like (from the description in the website):

- a) Tributary
- b) Upstream and downstream
- c) Headwaters
- d) Floodplains



Part E – Check your learning!

Look back at your original five questions about rivers from Part A. Can you answer them all now? Write an answer for each one that you can.

Use Google to look up any questions and answers you have not yet found.

Show Parts D and E to your teacher, for your third check-in.

Part F – If you have finished, choose a topic from below and find out facts about it.

Write your facts into a summary paragraph.

- a) Nile River – Why is it important to the people who live near it?
- b) Amazon River - Why is it important to the people who live near it?
- c) Colorado River - Why is it important to the people who live near it?
- d) Pollution problems in rivers today

When you are finished, show your paragraph to your teacher.

