



Why We Live Around Rivers

Lesson aim:

- To understand why we live around rivers.

Lesson objectives:

- To understand why people live around rivers and have settled next to rivers in the past.
- To learn the various reasons why humans use rivers.



Why We Live Around Rivers

Throughout history people have settled around rivers.



Can you think of some reasons why?



Why We Live Around Rivers

Villages began to develop along rivers because they provide lots of **resources** for people to use.



- Water to drink, cook and clean.
- Animals living in and around rivers provided people with food.



People started to use the river in other ways

Agriculture and Farming

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When the river floods, water travels across the land and sediment and nutrients are spread over the **floodplain**. This provides fertile land to grow crops and feed animals.



People started to use the river in other ways

Transport



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People, goods, animals and food could be transported in boats along the river in times when there were no proper roads.



People started to use the river in other ways

Defending against attack

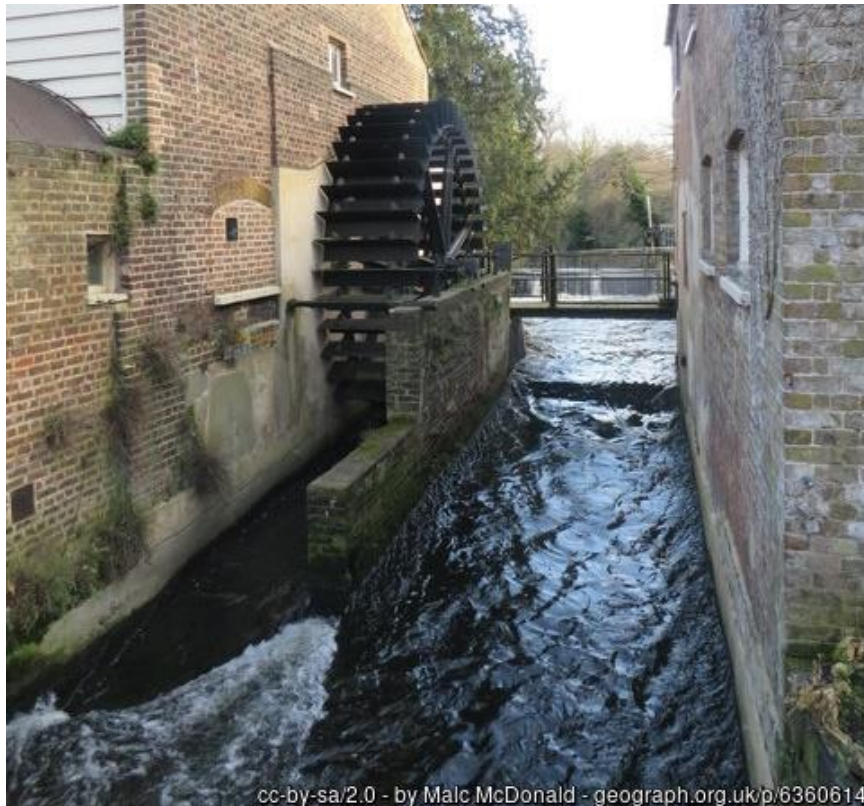


Castles could be built next to rivers or surrounded by deep ditches filled with water, or 'moats' from a nearby river to protect against invading armies.



People started to use the river in other ways

Power



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People started to use the force of water flowing in rivers to turn water wheels. This could then turn machinery to grind wheat to make flour or cut wood faster than had been possible before.



People started to use the river in other ways

Industry

Factories and machinery which were built during the **Industrial Revolution** needed water to power them and cools things down.



Heating up water to **create steam** to power machinery. (Video from Queen St Mill Facebook account).



Image: Jean Beaufort CC BY 2., Via public domain pictures

Water is used for cooling during steel making.



Rivers provide suitable locations for...

Generating electricity



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Nuclear Power Stations

Nuclear power stations heat water to spin large turbines which generate electricity.



Rivers provide suitable locations for...

Generating electricity



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Coal Fired Powered Stations

These power stations generate electricity by burning coal to heat water and create steam to spin turbines.



Rivers provide suitable locations for...

Generating electricity



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Hydro Electricity

These power stations block off the river with a dam which creates a lake behind them. Gates in the **dam** can open to allow large amounts of water through to push the turbines round and generate electricity.



An attractive place to live and visit

There are many reasons why people choose to live near rivers and water.

Living next to a river



People like to live near water, so homes next to or near rivers become more desirable.

Living on a houseboat on a river



Living on boats has become a more affordable way to live for many people in expensive parts of the country, like London.



An attractive place to live and visit

There are many reasons why people choose to live near rivers and water.



Work & business



Fun & sports



Fishing

People visit rivers to take part in water sports or have hobbies like fishing or boating. Businesses become needed near rivers to service the people who go there.



Homework – Choose two tasks from the homework sheet

Create a poster



Thinking about what you discussed in class, draw a scene from a river which shows the different uses.

Do some fact finding on the Hoover Dam

- What is it?
- Where is it?
- Which river is it built on?
- Why was it built?



Be a detective!



Can you name the river which is closest to where you live?

Use Google Earth to follow the river from where it begins to where it ends. Can you name all the towns it passes through?

Does it join another river or flow all the way to the sea?

English rivers A - Z



Working through the alphabet can you name 1 river that begins with each letter?

Research a river anywhere in the world



- What is its name?
- How long it is?
- Is it famous for anything?
- What is it used for?

