St. Austin's RC Primary School - Geography

Topic: Why is the River Mersey important to Liver-

Year 4 Strand: Locational and Place Knowledge / Human and Physical Geography

The names of the countries that make up the UK and some of the cities.

The name and location of the main seas around the UK.

How to use maps, atlases and digital mediums to name and locate the countries and cities of the UK.

Evaporation happens when water (a **liquid**) turns into water vapour (a **gas**) when it is heated.

Condensation happens when water vapour (a gas) turns into small water droplets (liquid) when it is cooled.

Plants absorb water through the soil to help them grow.

What should I learn?

The names of some key **rivers** in the UK - the Thames, the Mersey and the Severn. The names of some key **rivers** in Europe - the Volga, the Seine and the Danube.

Rivers are natural streams of fresh water that flow into seas, oceans and lakes. There are similarities and differences in the **physical and human features** around the River Mersey in Liverpool and the Seine in Paris.

How the water cycle works. (see also science States of Matter)

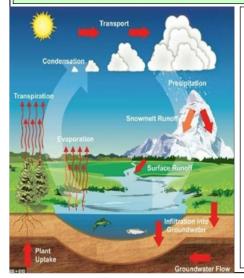
Why settlers needed rivers.

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atmosphere	the layer of air or other gases around a planet
condensation	small drops of water which form when water vapour or steam touches a cold surface, such as a window
evaporation	to turn from liquid into gas; pass away in the form of vapour.
gas	a form of matter that is neither liquid nor solid. A gas rapidly spreads out when it is warmed and contracts when it is cooled.
liquid	in a form that flows easily and is neither a solid nor a gas.
precipitation	rain, snow, sleet, dew, etc, formed by condensation of water vapour in the atmosphere
river	A natural stream of fresh water that flows into a sea, ocean or lake.
water vapour	water in the gaseous state, esp when due to evaporation at a temperature below the boiling point
water cycle	the circulation of the earth's water

Why do people settle near rivers? Rivers provide...

- water to drink, cook and clean
- animals living in and around rivers provide food
- when a river floods, water travels across the land leaving behind nutrients that make the land fertile
- to transport themselves and any goods
- the force of the water can be used to generate (create) power

Diagram and Explanation of the Water Cycle



The Sun causes the water from the Earth to evaporate.

This water evaporates from seas, lakes, streams and even puddles.

When it evaporates, water turns into water vapour.

As the water vapour rises, it cools down.

As it cools down, **condensation** happens and **water vapour condenses** to small droplets of water. Clouds are made from a mix of dry air and small droplets of water.

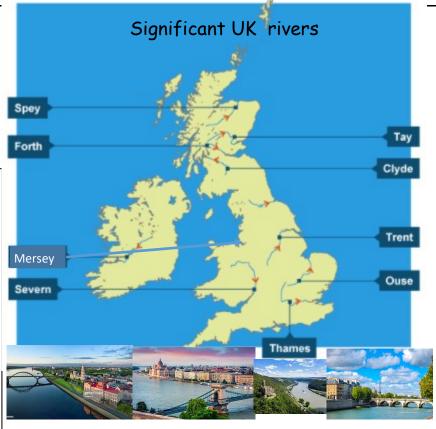
As **condensation** continues to happen, more droplets of **water vapour** are formed. When the droplets become heavy and large enough, they fall back to the Earth's surface in the form of rain or snow.

As **precipitation** happens in the form of rain or snow falling back to Earth, water is **absorbed** into the soil.

This water is used by plants to grow - when water from plant leaves **evaporates** back into the **atmosphere**, this is called **transpiration**.

Water may also run off and enter oceans, seas and rivers.

Water then evaporates again and the water cycle begins again!



Volga Danube Rhine Seine

These are all key rivers in Europe.