

Key Vocabulary

Ocean: A large body of water which covers several countries and often continents

Sea: A smaller yet still significant body of water which covers a large area, often several countries

Pollution: When something harmful is released into the environment and causes damage.

River: A large, natural stream of water which flows to the sea, another river or a lake.

Downstream: The way it which water naturally flows downhill.

Estuary: Where a river meets and ocean and the two mix.

Locating the seas surrounding the British Isles

The British Isles are surrounded by three seas and one ocean: The North Sea, The English Channel, The Irish Sea and The Atlantic Ocean.



Plastic pollution in the sea

Plastic pollution is a growing problem and every year, more than eight million tonnes of plastic makes its way into the oceans.

Plastic which is discarded gets blown into rivers and streams and eventually makes its way to the sea where it can be harmful to wildlife. Animals mistake the plastic for food or get trapped in it.

The coral in the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia has been damaged by plastic pollution.



The longest rivers of the world and of the UK

The World's longest rivers	UK's longest rivers
Nile - Africa	Severn
Amazon – South America	Thames
Yangtze - China	Trent
Mississippi-Missouri – North America	Great Ouse
Yenisei-Angara-Selenga – Europe/Asia	Wye

Rivers

Most rivers start life as a tiny stream high up a mountain. The river begins at the **source**, which could be a natural spring, melted ice and snow, or rainwater running down the land. Most rivers meet the sea at the **mouth** of the river.



River Tame in Greater Manchester