English Support Pack

In this pack, you will find instructions on how to complete your English lessons for this week. The theme for your English lessons this week is Rivers and this will run into next week too.

Lesson 1 – Reading

Open the reading comprehension called rivers around the world. There are 3 different levels for you to choose from which you will see based on the number of stars at the bottom of the page – 3 stars is the most challenging. There are comprehension questions for you to answer once you have read the text.

Lesson 2 – Research

Choose 3 different rivers from around the world and carry out some research on them ready for you to write your fact files. The fact files are going to be used to teach the year 3 children all about famous rivers as this will be their geography topic.

Key questions to research are:

1. What is the length of XXXXXX river?

2. Where does the river begin and end?

3. Which countries/cities/towns does XXXXX river run through?

4. How deep is the deepest part of XXXXXX river?

5. What is the XXXXX used for? i.e how does it help people?

6. Any interesting/exciting facts about the river.

Lesson 3 – Writing

Based on the information you have learnt through the reading comprehension and the research in lesson 2, you now need to choose a river and write a non chronological report about it. Your task is to an information non-chron report about a river which is full of fun facts and information. The audience for your non-chron report is Year 3 as they will be learning all about rivers when they get back to school and your report will be a great starting point for them.

Have a look at an example of a non-chron report about the River Nile to see what is expected of your piece of writing. You can 'magpie' ideas from this example for your own i.e the subheadings i.e where it's located, animals found there, what do people use it for?

FACT-FILE The River Nile ODDIZZI

The longest river in the world

A twig or leaf that travelled all the way from one of the sources of the Nile to the sea would have gone through many, many different countries and landscapes! In fact, the River Nile is the longest river in the world: it's a whopping 6,695 km (4,160 miles) long.

Where is the River Nile?

The River Nile isn't found in just one country. It winds its way through nine different countries in Africa, before finally flowing into the Mediterranean Sea at the northern edge of Egypt.

Where does it start?

That's not an easy question to answer! The source of the Nile (another word for its 'beginning') is shared between several countries.

Smaller rivers, called 'tributaries', flow out of Ethiopia, Burundi and Rwanda to form the Nile. Two of the main tributaries are the White Nile and the Blue Nile rivers.

Where the smaller rivers meet, it's called a 'confluence'.

River Nile running through Juba, South Sudan

Ancient Luxor temple, on the River Nile.

How long are the world's longest rivers?

NILE
AMAZON
YANGTZE
MISSISSIPPI
OB-IRTYSH

It's a close-fought battle for the title 'world's longest river' between the Nile and the River Amazon.

Did you know?
The White Nile isn't really very white, and the Blue Nile isn't all that blue, either – more of a murky brown.

A river with a history behind it

The modern-day name 'Nile' comes from the Greek word 'neilos', which means 'valley'. In ancient times, however, the Egyptians called the river the 'Ar' or 'Aur', meaning 'black'. This was because of all the dark silt (bits of rocks, plants and so on) dumped by the river on the land whenever it flooded.

It was on the banks of the River Nile that one of the oldest civilizations in the world began. With the soil made rich by frequent flooding, ancient Egyptians farmed along the side of the river from around 3000 BC, also using the water for washing, cooking and drinking.

They transported goods along the river to trade with other cultures and carried goods back to build their pyramids and farms.

Introduction about the Nile – only needs to be a few sentences.

'Did you know' section with fun facts – bright and colourful to hook the reader in

Subheadings to structure the information – think about what subheadings you could include.

Photos of the river with captions telling the audience what the picture is showing

Egyptians have farmed along the Nile since ancient times

You'll find hippos on the banks of the Nile'

The River Nile flows through Egypt's capital city, Cairo

Satellite image of the Nile Delta

What do people use the river for today?

People still use the water from the River Nile to irrigate (water) their crops. Even though the surrounding land is dry desert, there's a fertile green valley running along the sides of the Nile. Outside of the big cities and towns, people continue to use the water for washing, cooking and drinking, and the river remains an important transport route, with all sorts of heavy goods carried along it every day.

Tourism is popular along the River Nile too, especially in Egypt, where cruises take tourists to see the many sights. The Aswan High Dam, built in 1970, controls the flow of the river in Egypt and helps to reduce flooding. This dam has one of the world's largest reservoirs behind it: Lake Nasser.

What animals might you spot beside the River Nile?

Many animals live in and around the Nile. The most famous is the Nile crocodile, which can grow as long as six metres, and can eat up to half its own body weight in one sitting!

Snakes, hippos, buffalo and different species of antelope can also be found along the river.

The end of the river's story

As the Nile gets closer to the sea, it flows more slowly. It's no longer strong enough to carry all the material (silt) it's managed to pick up on its very long journey, so it drops much of it on the ground. The silt fertilises the soil it falls on, making it especially good for growing crops.

Where the river comes to its end, at the Nile Delta, the area is rich and green, as the satellite photograph shows.

Map of Egypt and the River Nile

Key Words: source tributaries Mediterranean Sea confluence sediment irrigate flooding fertiliser silt

Success Criteria:

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Sub headings with information included
- ✓ Colon to introduce lists
- ✓ A range of sentence starters
- ✓ Picture of the river with a caption
- ✓ A map of where the river is
- ✓ A 'did you know' section with a fun fact
- ✓ Technical language – you will need to explain what some terminology means as your work is aimed at Year 3.
- ✓ Subordinating conjunctions to link ideas i.e because, as, although, whilst