



## Geography: Orange Class – Rivers and Canals

### Why are rivers and canals so important to Manchester?

Key Vocabulary	
River	A natural waterway.
source	The start of a river.
tributary	A stream flowing into a larger river.
meander	A bend in a river or stream.
confluence	The point where several rivers meet.
oxbow lake	A curved lake cut off from a river.
delta	The triangular bits of land that split a river as it meets the sea.
mouth	Where the river meets the sea.
canal	A waterway built by humans.



Key Places
Manchester
Salford
Liverpool
Rochdale
River Irwell
River Irk
River Medlock
Bridgewater Canal
Manchester Shipping Canal
Rochdale Canal
Ashton Canal

Key Vocabulary	
Transport	Vehicles for travelling.
Industry	The process where things are made from raw materials.
Freight	Raw materials or products that are transported.
Leisure	Use of free time for enjoyment.
Lock	A section of a canal between two gates.
Barge	A narrow boat for use on a canal.
Navvy	Short for navigator – the people who built canals.
Towpath	The narrow path at the side of canals.
Channel	A ditch dug out of the earth.



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### Why are the rivers and canals of Manchester so important?

#### Key facts

<b>Formation of rivers</b>	Rivers have three main sections: upper, middle and lower
<b>Features of rivers</b>	Rivers start at their source on high ground. Tributaries meet at confluences to form a river. In the middle stage rivers meander and form oxbow lakes. In the lower stages, they form a delta. The mouth is where the river meets the sea.
<b>River use</b>	Rivers are used by people for different reasons: for transport, industry and leisure.
<b>Three rivers of Manchester</b>	The Irwell, the Irk and the Medlock
<b>Canals</b>	A canal is a waterway made by humans. They are usually narrower and more shallow than rivers.
<b>Features of canals</b>	Canals are made for barges to travel on them. They have sections called locks to enable barges to move up and down hills. The locks have special gates to hold or release the water.
<b>Canal use</b>	From the 1700s to the 1900s canals were used for freight. Now they are used for leisure.
<b>Formation of canals</b>	Canals were built by people called navvies. They dug out channels in the earth and diverted water from other places to fill the canals.

