

# Year 4 Rivers and Rio



## Key facts:

- The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. Other major cities are Sao Paolo and Rio de Janeiro.
- Brazil is the only country with the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn passing through it.
- Brazil is bordered to the East by the Atlantic Ocean.
- The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.
- The seven continents are: Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Australasia (Oceania), Europe, North America, South America.
- The Amazon rainforest takes its name from Amazon, the world's longest river.
- The Amazon rainforest spans 9 countries: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- Tropical rainforests are located in a band around the equator.
- Tropical rainforests thrive here because of the hot and humid climates where it rains virtually every day.
- Rainforests cover just 6% of the Earth's land surface, but are home to over 80% of known terrestrial species
- The rainforests are important because of the variety of life that they support (their biodiversity) and because they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
- The rainforest is under threat of deforestation because of: wood for both timber and making fires, agriculture for both small and large farms, pulp for making paper, road construction and extraction of minerals and energy.
- Brazil has a large area of poor housing, called favelas.

## Key Concepts and Skills:

- Understand the journey of a river.
- Describe and understand the key aspects of the water cycle.
- Use maps, atlases and globes to locate Europe and South America.
- Compare physical and human geographical features between the UK and South America.
- Study physical geography, and understand the layers of the rainforest.
- Understand how humans can impact the rainforest (deforestation).
- Explore human geography including economic activity and types of settlement in Brazil.

## Key Vocabulary:

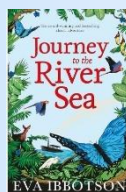
**Continent:** A large land mass - one of seven in the world.  
**South America:** A continent - South of North America and home to Brazil and the Amazon rainforest.  
**Amazon:** A South American river - the largest in the world.  
**Rainforest:** Biomes with high rainfall and warm temperatures.  
**Equator:** The imaginary line of latitude running around the centre of the earth.  
**Biodiversity:** The variety of plants and animals on earth.  
**Deforestation:** The mass destruction of forests.

## Quality Texts to Inspire Us:

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Up in the Canopy by James Aldred

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson





**YEAR 4**

***RIVERS AND RIO  
SUMMER TERM 2025***

**Outcome:** The children will create pieces of Art and written information reflecting their learning and understanding of Rivers and Rio de Janeiro.

**Hook:** exploration of Rivers and Rio de Janeiro including the Amazon Rainforest.

As **Readers**, we will:

- Apply our growing knowledge of common letter strings; both to read aloud and to understand meaning.
- Read further exception words and identify themes and conventions in a wide range of books.
- Develop positive attitudes to our reading and understand what we read by: listening, using dictionaries, discussing words and phrases, checking that the text makes sense to us and explaining the meaning of words in context.
- Ask questions to improve our understanding of a text, draw inferences, predict, identify main ideas; and identify how language, structure, and presentation contributes to meaning.
- In addition to this, we will develop our ability to retrieve and record information from non-fiction texts.
- Participate in discussions about books that are read to us and those we can read; taking turns and listening to what others say.

As **Writers**, we will:

- Understand and identify different poetic structures.
- Identify different poetic devices and features, within poetry.
- Identify and understand how language and structure contribute to the overall meaning of text.
- Write poems following the correct structure.
- Build rich and varied vocabulary, to engage the reader.
- Recall and identify the different features of an explanation text.
- Explain the purpose of an explanation text, and give examples of different texts of this genre.
- Understand that different texts are written for different purposes, and are therefore structurally different.
- Use conjunctions to link our ideas, as well as to express time and cause.
- Understand what pronouns are, and use them appropriately to avoid repetition.
- Read a range of different persuasive texts and recall their features.
- Have the opportunity to experiment and apply structure and techniques to own writing.

**Key Vocabulary:**

Verse, poem, explanation, pronouns, structure, vocabulary, formal, factual, descriptive, description, setting, persuasive,

**Must Haves:**

- Careful spelling of tier1 and 2 words, good attempts at tier 3
- Capital letters and full stops correctly used.
- Use of expanded noun phrases
- Correct verb tense for the piece of writing.
- Use of the correct features for each genre.



## As **Mathematicians**, we will:

### Become Fluent

- In our times tables knowledge up to 12x12
- Quick recall of additions to 100,1000
- Understand place value and its context

### Use calculation

- Formal and informal methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- To find lengths and perimeters

### Reason and problem solve in the contexts of:

- Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Perimeter

## Key Vocabulary:

ten thousand, hundred thousand, million digit, one-, two-, three- or four-digit number numeral 'teens' number place, place value stands for, represents exchange the same number as, as many as equal to, objects/amounts: >, greater than, bigger than, more than, larger than, sort classify, property, perimeter, addition, decrease, increase, inverse, calculate

## As **Scientists**, we will:

- Be able to identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
- Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear
- Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
- Find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it
- Recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases
- Identify common appliances that run on electricity
- Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors

## Key Vocabulary:

Electricity, electrical, current, bulb, wire, vibration, light, battery, conductors, insulators, pitch, sound, volume, appliances, buzzers, switches, series circuit, metals

## As **Geographers** we will:

### As Geographers, we will learn all about Rio de Janeiro and Rivers:

- Exploring and understanding the journey of a river
- Locate the physical features of South America
- Compare the physical features of South America and the United Kingdom
- Explore the climate in Brazil
- Understand the ecological value of the Amazon Rainforest
- Understand the Amazon rainforests different habitats and their importance
- Understand the human and physical features of Rio de Janeiro
- Understand the types of settlement and economic activity in Brazil

## Key Vocabulary:

**Deforestation:** the purposeful clearing of forested land.

**Ecological:** relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.

**Settlement:** a place where people live.

## As **Designers and Artists**, we will:

- Research and explore the influential work of artists
- Create sculptures in the style of an artist
- Evaluate our artwork
- Create artwork in the style of a chosen artist
- Create a background using water colours
- Add printed details to our artwork
- Explore a range of inventions

## Key Vocabulary:

Tone, sketch, pencil grade, medium, hard, soft, texture, shadow, light, design, water colour, details, printed





As **Computer Technologists** we will:

- Explore repetition in games
- Record our own audio recordings

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Website:** A set of related web pages.

**Cloning:** is a different kind of operation to replicate and backup

**Audio:** sound, especially when recorded, transmitted or reproduced

**Recording:** the action of process of recording sound or a performance for subsequent reproduction or broadcast.

In **PE** we will:

- Learn the skills and rules needed in tennis and curling
- Develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance through dance and athletics

**Key Vocabulary:**

Rules, team, assist, net, block, defend, pass, control, balance, routine, sequence, sprint, curling, tennis

In **PSHE** we will:

- Explore our differences and similarities with the people around us
- Understand how to work cooperatively
- Explore different stereotypes and understand what prejudice means
- Explore different career paths
- Understand how our body changes
- Understand what puberty means

**Key Vocabulary:**

Prejudice, cooperatively, community, stereotypes, careers differences, similarities, puberty, menstruation,

As **Musicians**, we will:

- Explore the pitch, chords and melody of tone chimes
- Explore pitched melodies