

Knowledge Organiser Year 5 - Spring 1 2024

Geography - The Amazon River and Energy Production

Amazonia - The area within the Amazon Rainforest and around the Amazon River.

Climate - The general weather condition in an area over a long period.

Rainfall - It is how much rain falls in an area.

Tributary - A smaller stream of river, which feeds into a larger river.

Estuary - Is the mouth of a river.

Erosion - The process of being worn away by the water.

Deforestation - The cutting down of a large area of trees by humans



What are Oxbow lakes?

The river has a **middle course**, where the channel of the river is wider and it flows across land and through valleys. The river here meanders because the flow of the river causes **erosion** of the land.

Sometimes **meanders** form **oxbow lakes**, which are cut off from the river. The lower course of the river flows much more, and where it meets the sea is known as the mouth.

Slowly as it reaches the sea, it widens out into a broad **estuary**.



Where is the Amazon?

Both the Amazon River and the Amazon Rainforest are located in South America. South America is one of the 7 continents of the world and is located in the southern hemisphere.

The Amazon Rainforest can be seen in the north of the continent. The Amazon River can be seen flowing through the rainforest, also in the north of the continent, moving from west to east.

The Amazon River Basin is home to the largest rainforest in the world and covers almost 40% of South America

What are the features of a river?

Confluence - where two rivers meet, combining their flow.

Drainage Basin - the area of land drained by a river and its tributaries. The land use in the drainage basin and how it is managed will affect whether a river will flood or not.

Meander - a bend or loop in the river - usually in the middle or lower course.

The Source - the starting point of a river; the source of the highest tributary.

Tributaries - small rivers or streams, which flow into a larger river; these will begin as springs as water seeps out of the groundwater.



The Amazon is a vast region that spans nine countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

The Amazon River is the largest river by discharge of water in the world, greater than the next seven largest rivers combined and it is the second longest river in the world, after The Nile.

The Amazon River has over 1,100 tributaries and the Amazon River's most distant source is found in the mountains of Peru.



What is a river?

The water in a river comes from rain, fall, snow, melting ice and from water inside the Earth. Each river has a source, usually found in mountainous areas, where different streams flow downhill and join together to form a river.

A small stream or smaller river, which flows into the main river, is called a tributary. This is the upper course of the river.

- The climate in South America can be harvested to produce sustainable energy with minimal pollution.

What is the climate like in South America?

South America has a wide variety of climates. They range from the dry desert conditions of northern Chile to the heavy rains along the windswept southwestern coast of the continent.

Advantages of using wind turbines for generating electricity:

- wind is plentiful (though intermittent)
- it has the potential to provide more than enough energy for the world's needs
- It is clean and has no greenhouse gas emissions.



Energy Production in South America

- A significant part of South America's renewable energy is generated by hydropower facilities in the likes of Brazil and Venezuela.
- The wind turbines work when the wind blows. The turbine's blades turn a rotor, which in turn powers a generator to produce electricity.
- After the initial large investment, wind farms are more economical to run than other renewable methods.

Project for Home Learning

Can you find out about the Amazon River and energy production in South America?

Make

- a 3D model of the Amazon River or Wind Turbines
- A leaflet
- A poster
- Fact file
- Farm where we can see the wind turbines work.