

Unit 5 Meanders

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To explain meanders and floodplains and show how they affect where people live and farm.

1.1. Go to River>>Section 5 Screen 1

“Do you know what a river is like and how it changes? Let’s look at this video to start our exploration.”

- ▶ Watch the video as a group to build background knowledge and get a mental perspective of the topic.
- ▶ ALSO watch the video about where a castle is sited. Go to History>> Castle>>Videos>>Video 1.
- ▶ Discuss how a meander has controlled where the castle was built, where the bridge is and how it has affected the town shape.

1.2. Go to Textbook pages 18-19

“Let’s find out what it is like at a meander”.

- ▶ Steer clear of why meanders form. Concentrate on getting children to understand that meanders have steep ‘cliffs’ on the outside and gentle slopes on the inside of a bend.

1.3. Go to Textbook pages 20-21

“What happens if a meander gets bigger and bigger?”

- ▶ You may want to combine the way meanders develop into oxbows with the exploration in section 2.
- ▶ Examine the picture on the page and see how it is possible for one shape to change into another.
- ▶ Teacher’s Guide pages 64 and 66 provide worksheets to go with this.



Play the video.

Play the video.

Cross-curricular:
**Geography/History
(Castle)**

2a. Group exploration

2.1. TG photocopiable page 35



- ▶ Set up the activity shown in the picture on page 35 in the Teacher's Guide. It is also shown on page 18 of the textbook.
- ▶ Get children to experiment to find out what the biggest meanders are. Use a small watering can and a supply of water to which you have added blue food colouring. The board should be melamine surfaced and dry. Record the steepest angle of slope that gives meanders.
- ▶ Getting meanders to form is a knack, so everyone can have a go.

Melamine board
(e.g. shelf) + watering
can and tray to
collect water.

2b. Literacy activity

Go to Literacy>>River>>Unit 11 Levee

- ▶ Rivers with meanders often have banks called levees built up during floods. A levee has been a place for many cities to be built. Calcutta is one. St Louis is another. The literacy unit 11 shows how river meanders and levees were used in the 19th century.

Cross-curricular:
Geography/History
(Victorians)

Issue photocopies
of the story.

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Ask children to find out places with meandering rivers. They can use Google Earth for that. Get them to look at London, Shrewsbury, Durham, Stirling and Warkworth (Northumberland) and discuss how they have been used. Connects to Saxons, Normans and Vikings.

Cross-curricular:
Geography/History
**(Settlement/Saxons/
Vikings/Normans)**