

# The United Kingdom

## Learning Objective:

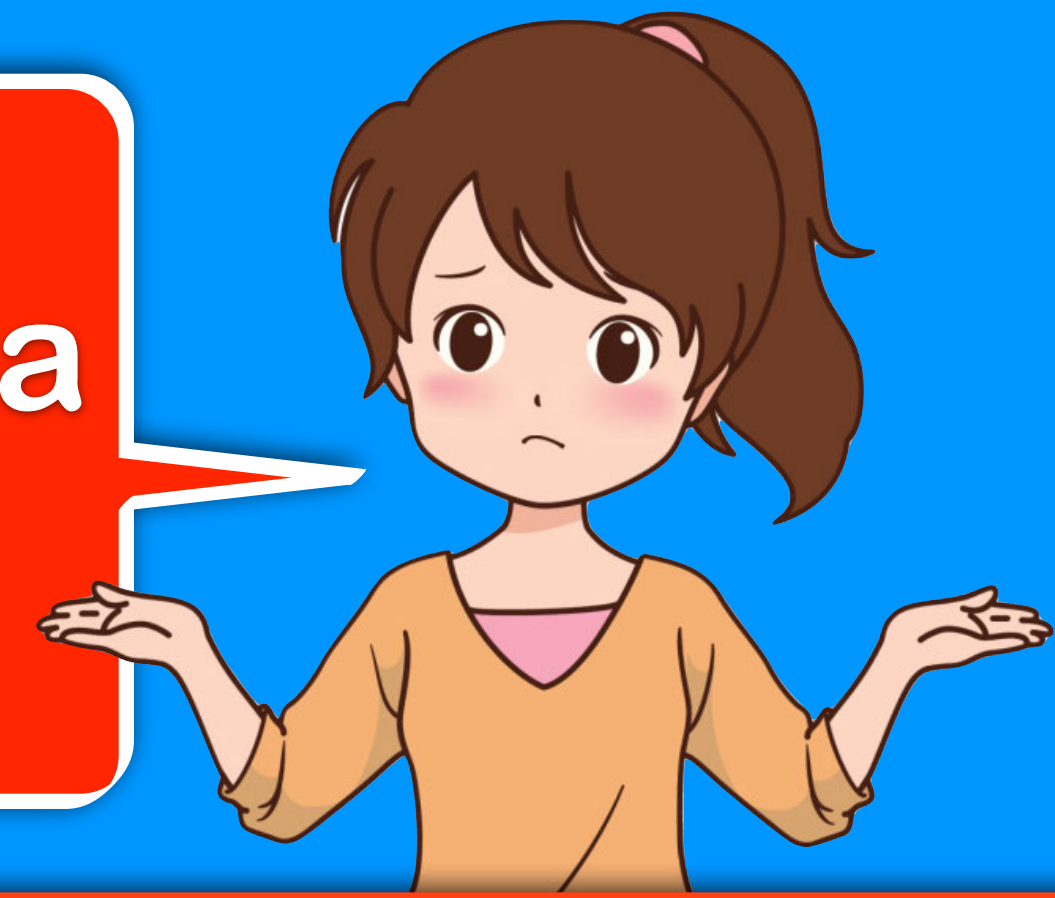
To be able to identify and explore the major rivers of the UK.

How many rivers  
of the UK can you  
name?

Do you know which  
UK river is the  
longest?



What exactly is a river? Can you think of a definition? Write one below as a class...



A river is a large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake or another channel. Rivers always start their journey at a **SOURCE**. The source is always in an area of high altitude and can come from a natural spring or from where water gathers from precipitation (rain or snow). The water then starts running down the hill or mountain until it reaches the sea. Rivers run very quickly at the beginning of their journey but then slow down as they reach flatter land.



Large rivers are often joined on their journey by smaller rivers or streams called **TRIBUTARIES**.



**BACK**

**NEXT**

As the water carves its way through the landscape, it can often cause twists and turns called **MEANDERS**.



**BACK**

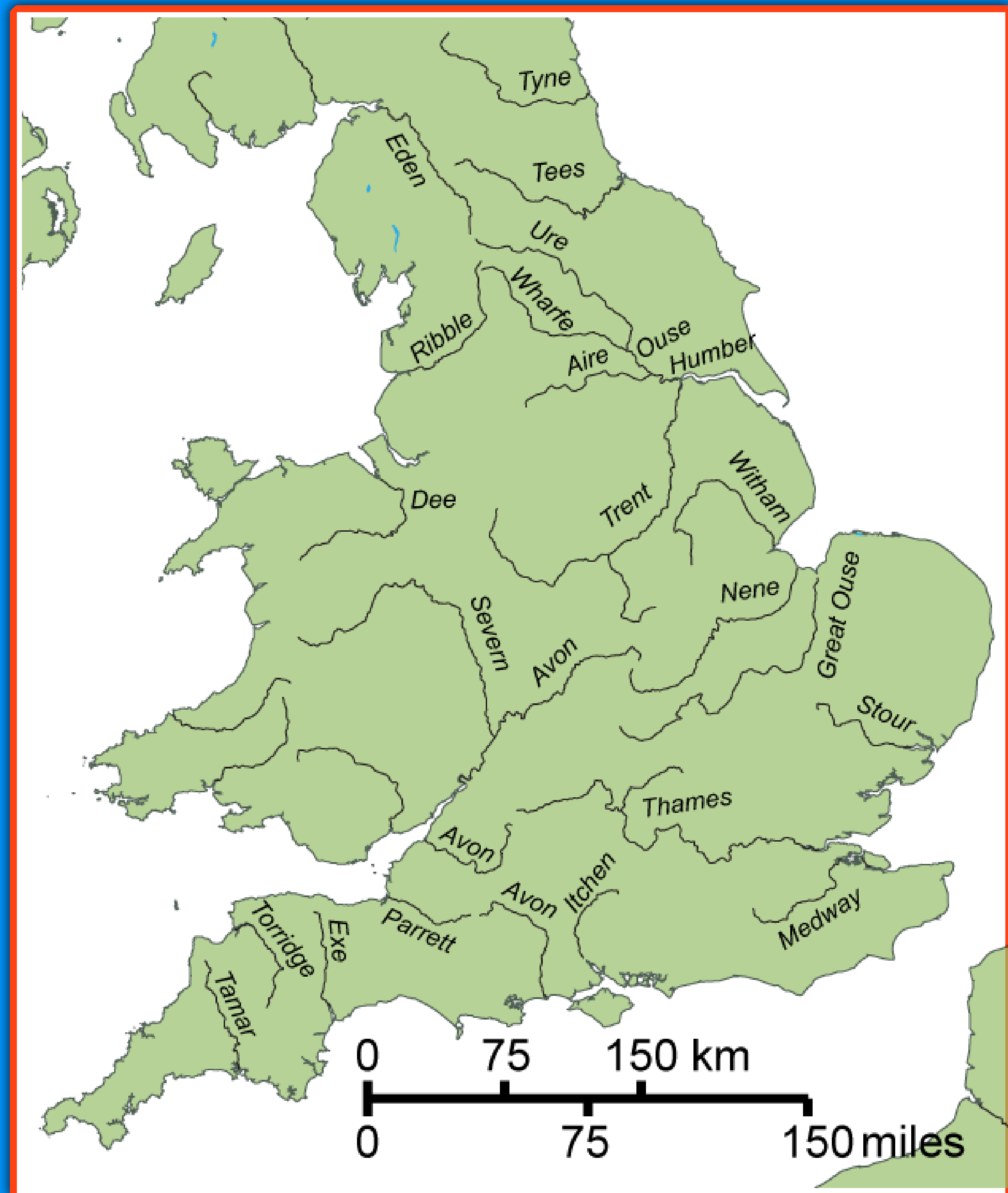
**NEXT**

The point where the river meets the sea or ocean is called the **MOUTH** of the river. Sometimes, the mouth of the river can create a **DELTA**. A delta is a landform that occurs from the deposition of sediment. This means that the rocks, stones and soil carried along by the river are built up on the land.



This map shows some of the rivers of the UK. The River Severn is the longest river in Britain.

Its source is Mount Plynlimon in the west of Wales. It flows north east to Shrewsbury, turns south east and then south west. The mouth of the river is the Severn Estuary that flows into the Bristol Channel.





The River Severn has several tributaries, including the River Perry, River Stour and River Teme. It is also connected to other rivers, such as the Thames, by canal. The River Severn is an important transportation route, as well as being home to one of the world's longest suspension bridges, the Severn Road Bridge.

