

Activity: Our school and the ocean

Did you know that 80% of litter in the ocean comes from the land? No matter where we live, our actions have an impact on the ocean and life within it. The purpose of this activity is to help pupils connect to the ocean.

What to do

1. Use Google Earth to find your school. From your school, locate the nearest river and follow it until it meets the sea.
2. At each stage, students should fill in the [Your school and the ocean worksheet](#).
3. There are different worksheets depending on whether pupils are completing the activity in pairs (recommended for older pupils) or as a class activity (younger pupils).



In the UK,
you are
never more
than 70
miles from
the coast

Class activity

Your school and the ocean

Name: _____

Our school's name is:

The coordinates for our school are:

The village or town our school is in is called:

Our nearest river is called:

The mouth of the river is:

What is the name of the estuary?

What is the name of the nearest town to the estuary?

How far is your school to the mouth of the estuary?

What is the name of the sea in this area?

What is the section of ocean nearest to you called?

In pairs

Your school and the ocean

Name: _____

Our school's name is:

The coordinates for our school are:

Find your school on Google Earth by typing in your school name in the search function. Find the coordinates in the bottom right hand corner.

The village or town our school is in is called:

Our nearest river is called:

Search out to find the nearest river to your school.

Did you know?
The plastic litter in our oceans today, for example, will take 100 years to break down. The sea is going to follow your river on its journey to the sea.

In the search bar on Google Earth type in the name of your nearest river. Click more info to find out where the mouth of the river is.

The mouth of the river is:

You're getting closer to the sea! The next mouth may lead you to the sea or it might flow into another river. If it leads you to another river you will need to search again for the mouth of the nearest river and you repeat the steps.

4. Have a discussion about how our actions affect our seas, no matter where we live:
 - Every piece of litter dropped in the street can pollute the ocean.
 - 70% of litter in the ocean is made of plastic.
 - Wet wipes and sanitary items made up nearly 9% of the litter found on UK beaches in 2020
 - Every time clothes are washed they release thousands of microfibres, which end up in rivers and seas.

Your school and the ocean

Name:

Our school's name is:

The coordinates for our school are:

The village or town our school is in is called:

Our nearest river is called:

The mouth of the river is:

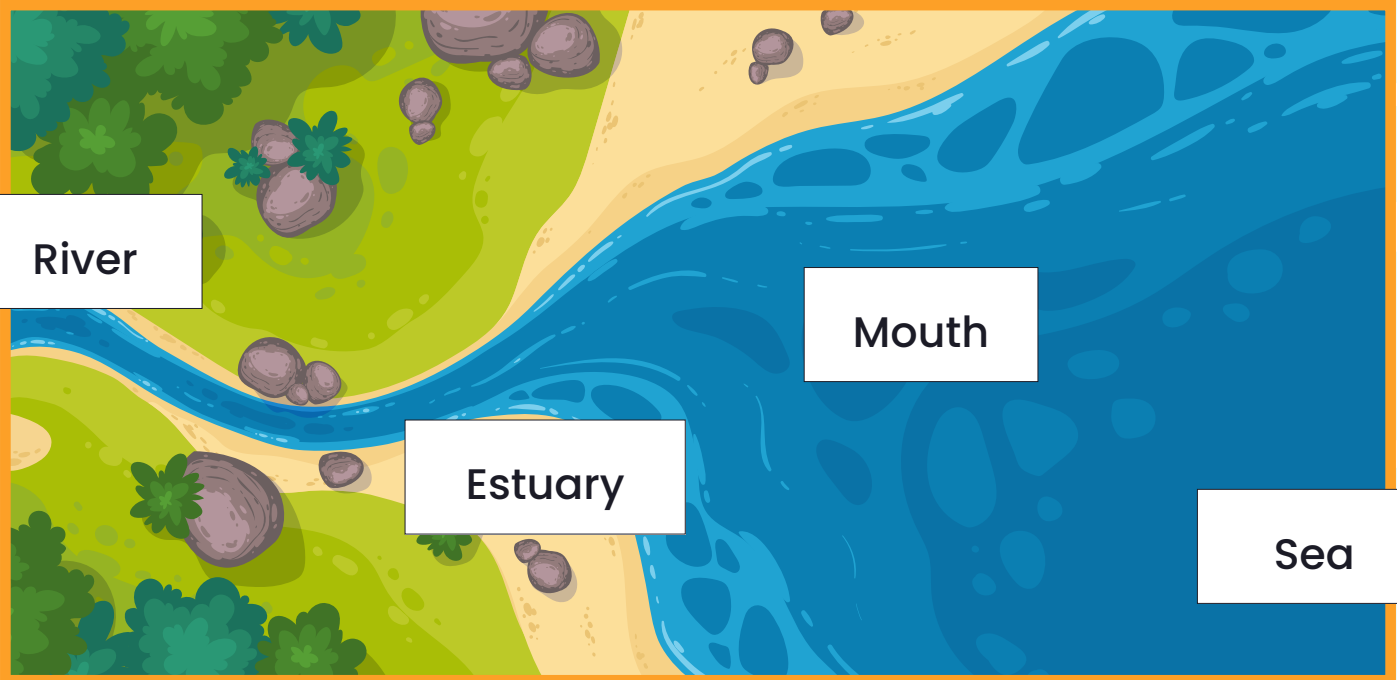
What is the name of the estuary?

What is the name of the nearest town to the estuary?

How far is your school to the mouth of the estuary?

What is the name of the sea in this area?

What is the section of ocean nearest to you called?



On the map, mark roughly where your school is and where your nearest river meets the sea

Your school and the ocean

Name:

Our school's name is:

The coordinates for our school are:



Find your school on Google Earth by typing in your school name in the search function. Find the coordinates in the bottom-right corner.

The village or town our school is in is called:

Our nearest river is called:



Zoom out to find the nearest river to your school.

Did you know?

The place where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean is called its mouth. We are going to follow your river on its journey to the sea.



In the search bar on Google Earth, type in the name of your nearest river. Click on more information to find out where the mouth of the river is.

The mouth of the river is:

You're getting closer to the sea! The river mouth may lead you to the sea or it might flow into another river. If it leads you to another river, you'll need to search again for the mouth of the second river until you reach the sea.

Did you know?

Where the mouth of the river meets the sea is called an estuary.

What is the name of the estuary?

What is the name of the nearest town to the estuary?



Use the measurement tool on Google Earth

How far is your school to the mouth of the estuary?



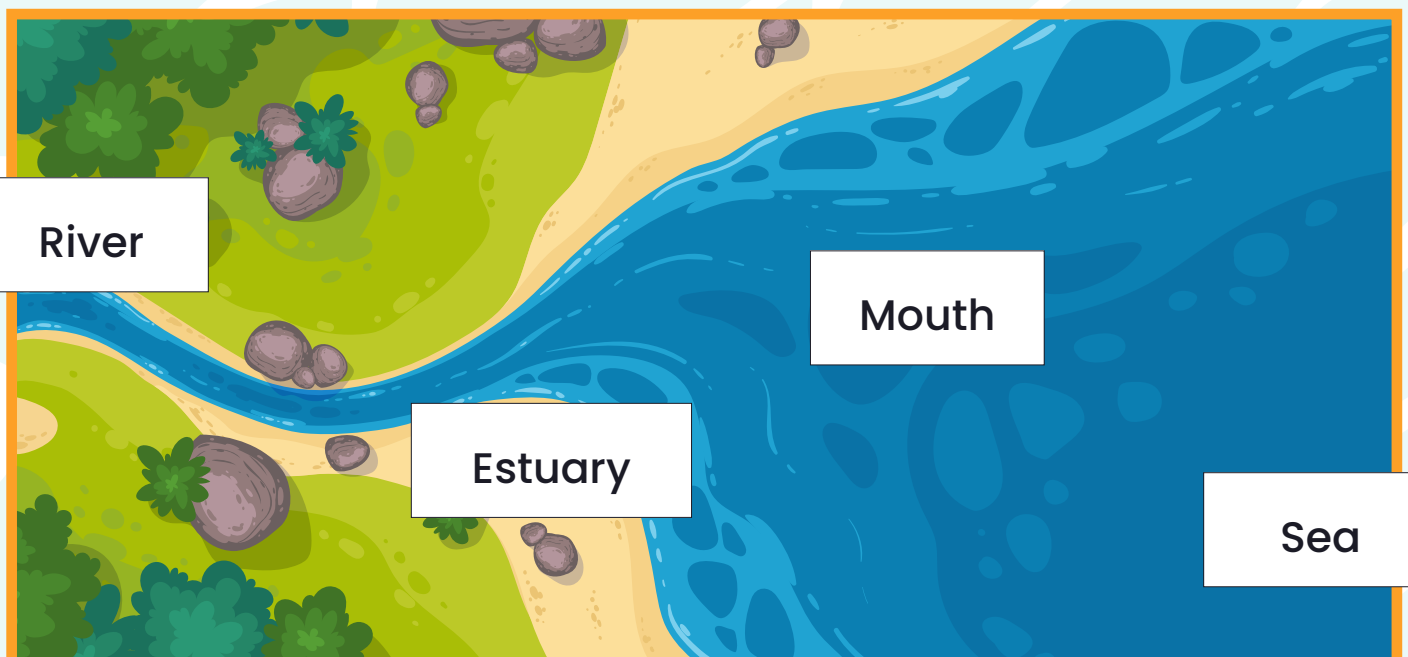
Zoom out to find the name of the sea closest to your school. The sea is the area of the ocean closest to and surrounding land.

What is the name of the sea in this area?



Zoom out even further to find the name of the ocean closest to you.

What is the section of ocean nearest to you called?



On the map, mark roughly where your school is and where your nearest river meets the sea

