

YEAR 6 - AUTUMN 1 EMBRACE RESPONSIBILITY (GEOGRAPHY) 2026 27



We are learning about RIVER FOSS because...



We want pupils to **embrace responsibility** for themselves, others and the world around them, whilst experiencing and exploring the **diversity** of our communities and world.

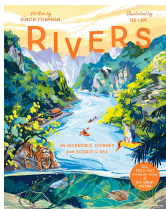
In this unit, we want pupils to **embrace responsibility** for our local and global environment, working together to make positive changes.



We want our pupils to share a sense of **belonging** to our **school team** and our **community**. Through the curriculum we will explore **our city**, York, and **the World** in which we **belong**.

In this unit, we want pupils to have a good understanding of the local **community** of Huntingdon; identifying places and features.

Key texts we will read:

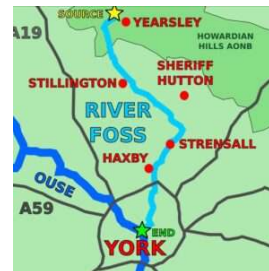


Rivers: An incredible journey from source to sea
by Simon Chapman

River Foss

The **River Foss** is in **North Yorkshire**, England. It is a tributary of the **River Ouse**.

The River Foss catchment is primarily used for agriculture in its upper reaches and becomes more urbanized as it flows through York.



Key vocabulary we will learn:

Geography:

economic activity, protect, threat, patterns, present information, freshwater, ecosystem river, source, meander, tributary, physical, human

Agriculture, urbanisation, run off



Key subjects:

- GEOGRAPHY
- Art - sketching in the environment
- Science - Living things and their Habitats
- PSHE - Relationships

Key GEOGRAPHY Questions:

What threats are there to the River Foss?

The River Foss faces several threats, including excess sediment, pollution from various sources, and potential flooding due to rising levels in the River Ouse.

How is the land used around the River Foss and how does this impact on the health of the river?

The River Foss catchment is primarily used for agriculture in its upper reaches and becomes more urbanized as it flows through York.

Agriculture: Agriculture has a significant impact on the River Foss, mainly through pollution and water usage. Runoff from agricultural land, including fertilizers, pesticides, and soil, contaminates the river, while excessive water abstraction for irrigation can lower river flows and impact aquatic life.

Urbanisation: Urbanisation impacts the River Foss by decreasing its ability to absorb rainfall, increasing surface runoff, and potentially leading to increased flooding and pollution. The River Foss, being a tributary of the River Ouse in York, is particularly susceptible to issues like flooding due to the rapid runoff from urban areas.

How can we protect the River Foss?

We can help the River Foss by:

- conserving the river's natural environment
- preventing pollution in the river
- restoring natural habitats along the river for its vegetation, fish and all animals
- improving the river for everyone by making it a better place to walk, fish and enjoy other recreational activities
- helping prevent floods in the future by working to control water better. (<https://www.riverfossociety.co.uk/>)