Year 8 Geography Knowledge Organiser – Topic Three: Rivers and Flooding

1	Weathering	The breaking down of rocks and materials by nature
2	Erosion	The wearing away of the land by a moving force (rivers, waves, wind, glaciers)
3	Freeze -thaw weathering	Water enters into cracks in rocks and freezes, when it freezes it expands, so weakens the rock when this is repeated over time
4	Onion skin weathering	Heating and cooling of rocks makes them expand and contract, so surface layers peel off like the skin of an onion
5	Biological weathering	The action of plants and animals which helps to break down rocks
6	Chemical weathering	The action of acids in rain water which dissolves rocks such as limestone
7	Abrasion	Particles of rock in river water rubs against the bed and banks of a river, wearing it away in a sandpaper effect
8	Attrition	Rocks collide together and break into smaller pieces, this also makes them rounder and smoother
9	Hydraulic action	The force/power of the water hitting the bed and banks of a river, wearing it away
10	Corrosion	Weak acids in river water help to dissolve rocks

11	Transportation	The movement of sediment within a river
12	Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet or hailstones
13	Transpiration	Moisture which is lost from leaves of plants and trees
14	Infiltration	Water which filters downwards through soil into the ground
15	Percolation	Water which filters downwards through rocks into the ground
16	Throughflow	Water which travels sideways through the soil towards rivers/lakes/the sea
17	Groundwater flow	Water which travels sideways through the rocks and ground towards rivers/lakes/the sea
18	Surface run-off	Water which flows over the surface of the land
19	Hydrological cycle	The continuous circulation of water within the Earth's hydrosphere, and is driven by solar radiation (the sun)
20	Drainage Basin	The area of land around the river that is drained by the river and its tributaries

Year 8 Geography Knowledge Organiser – Topic Three: Rivers and Flooding

21	Watershed	An imaginary border around a river basin to show where the river gains its water from
22	Source	The start of a river, usually in mountainous regions
23	Mouth	The end of a river, where it flows into the sea or a lake
24	Tributary	A smaller stream which joins onto the main river
25	Channel	The bed and banks of a river. The river water is held within this
26	Confluence	The place where a tributary (small stream) joins on to the main river
27	Drainage density	the total length of streams in a drainage basin divided by the area of the basin. Drainage basins characterised by impermeable rock and soils tend to have higher drainage density due to the lack of infiltration and percolation.
28	V-shaped valleys	The distinctive shape of river valleys, due to vertical erosion
29	Interlocking spurs	Fingers of land that jut out into the river valley that streams and rivers are forced to flow around in the upper course
30	Vertical erosion	Downwards erosion of a river. This helps to create v-shaped valleys

31	Gradient	How steep or gentle a slope is
32	Waterfall	A steep drop in the course of a river, usually formed where rivers flow over different rock types. These landforms are usually found in the upper course of a river
33	Gorge	A steep valley formed either side of a river as a waterfall retreats (moves backwards) upsteam
34	Lateral erosion	Erosion from side to side – this usually happens in meanders
35	Floodplain	The area of flat land either side of a river, usually covered in water when a river bursts its banks. This area is usually very fertile due to deposition of river sediment
36	Meander	Bends in a river, usually found in the middle to lower course
37	Oxbow lake	The remains of an abandoned river meander (bend)
38	River beach/slip off slope	An area on the inside of a meander where there is greater deposition
39	River cliff	The area of the outside of a meander where erosion is greater
40	Alluvium/silt	Deposits of sand, gravel, clay/mud which has been dropped down by a river

Year 8 Geography Knowledge Organiser – Topic Three: Rivers and Flooding

41	Urbanisation	The growth of urban (built up) areas usually where there are more impermeable surfaces like concrete and tarmac, where water cannot soak through, so runs over the surface
42	Deforestation	The cutting down of trees. This can increase flooding as it reduces interception and increases run-off of water into rivers
43	Monsoon	The term for the wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia, and the rains themselves
44	Tropical storm	A hazard that brings heavy rainfall, strong winds and other related problems such as mudslides and floods. Tropical storms usually form between approximately 5° and 30° latitude and move westward due to easterly winds
45	Storm surge	The abnormal rise in seawater level during a storm, measured as the height of the water above the normal predicted tide
46	Immediate response	A response in the days and weeks immediately after a disaster has happened. Short-term responses mainly involve search and rescue and helping the injured
47	Long-term response	Responses that go on for months and years after a disaster. They involve rebuilding destroyed infrastructure, e.g. roads, houses, power and water supplies, schools and hospitals.
47	Levees	Mounds which can form naturally either side of a river where a river deposits its material during a flood. These can also be man-made to contain flood water
49	Dams	A wall built across a river, to hold water back
50	Afforestation	Planting trees - a natural method used to reduce flooding

51	LIC	Low income country (poor)
52	HIC	High income country (rich)
53	Short term aid	Supplies which people need immediately after a disaster e.g. first aid, food, water, shelter
54	Long term aid	Support given to help re-build and plan for future disasters
55	Foreign/ overseas aid	Support given by other countries, which could be in the form of money (loans) or donations of goods or expertise
56	Permeable	Rocks which water can soak through
57	Impermeable	Rocks or surfaces which water cannot soak through