Day 62
Name three things you remember about the River Thames.
The River Mersey

River Mersey Facts

The River Mersey is 112km long (70 miles). Mersey means ‘boundary river’ in Anglo-Saxon. For centuries, the river formed part of the boundary between Lancashire and Cheshire. Many British Hindus consider the river to be sacred.
The Course of the River Mersey

The river is formed from three tributaries: the River Etherow (a tributary of the River Goyt), the River Goyt and the River Tame, which flows through Greater Manchester.

The river starts at the confluence of the River Tame and River Goyt in Stockport, flowing through south Manchester, between Urmston and Sale, towards Warrington. Here it widens, before narrowing, as it passes by Runcorn and Widnes.

From Runcorn, the river widens into a large estuary near Ellesmere Port. The Mersey finishes at Liverpool Bay, flowing into the Irish Sea.
River Recreation

Liverpool Sailing Club is located on the north bank of the River Mersey, near Liverpool.

Angling is popular at certain stretches along the river.

The river is rich in carp, trout, bream and dace.

carp  bream  dace
Liverpool

The Mersey Ferry
This is a ferry service running on the River Mersey which has become a major tourist attraction. It runs between Liverpool and Birkenhead/Wallasey. Ferries have been used here since the 12th century.

‘Ferry Cross the Mersey’ is a famous song from 1964.
Liverpool

The Mersey Railway Tunnel
In order to connect Liverpool and Birkenhead at opposite banks of the River Mersey, the Mersey Railway Tunnel was opened 1886 but went bankrupt in 1900.

The line adopted electric traction a few years later, which allowed it to remain working until 1948 when Mersey Railway was nationalised. The tunnels are still used today as part of the Wirral Line.
Liverpool

The Queensway and Kingsway Tunnels
These two road tunnels pass under the estuary. The Queensway Tunnel, also known as the Birkenhead Tunnel, opened in 1934 connecting Liverpool to Birkenhead. The Kingsway opened in 1971, connecting the city with Wallasey.
Liverpool Bay

The River Mersey flows past Liverpool and empties into Liverpool Bay, on the Irish Sea. Four other rivers drain into the bay: the Alt, Ribble, Dee and Clwyd.
Pollution and the River Mersey

The Industrial Revolution severely affected the quality of the water in the River Mersey. In the 1980s, a campaign began to improve the water quality.

In 2009, it was announced that the river was the cleanest it had been since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

Salmon have returned to the river and Atlantic grey seals, bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoise have all been seen in the estuary.
Complete the circle map. In the circle note down what you have discovered about the River Mersey. In the frame of reference note down anything else that you might like to find out.

Extension - Thinking back to learning our about the River Thames, are there any similarities or differences between the two rivers that you can think of?
Explain whether anything that you have learnt today has surprised you or not and why.