

Source to Sea: The River Wear Activity Sheet

Use the information on the next page to answer the questions!

If you're not sure what some of the words in bold are, look them up in a dictionary or use the glossary below.

1. Where is the River Wear's **source**, the place where it starts?
2. Can you name one of its **tributaries**?
3. How long is the River Wear?
4. Where does it meet the North Sea?
5. How many bridges are there crossing the River Wear?
6. What type of land does it mostly flow past these days?

Glossary:

Source: The place where a river begins.

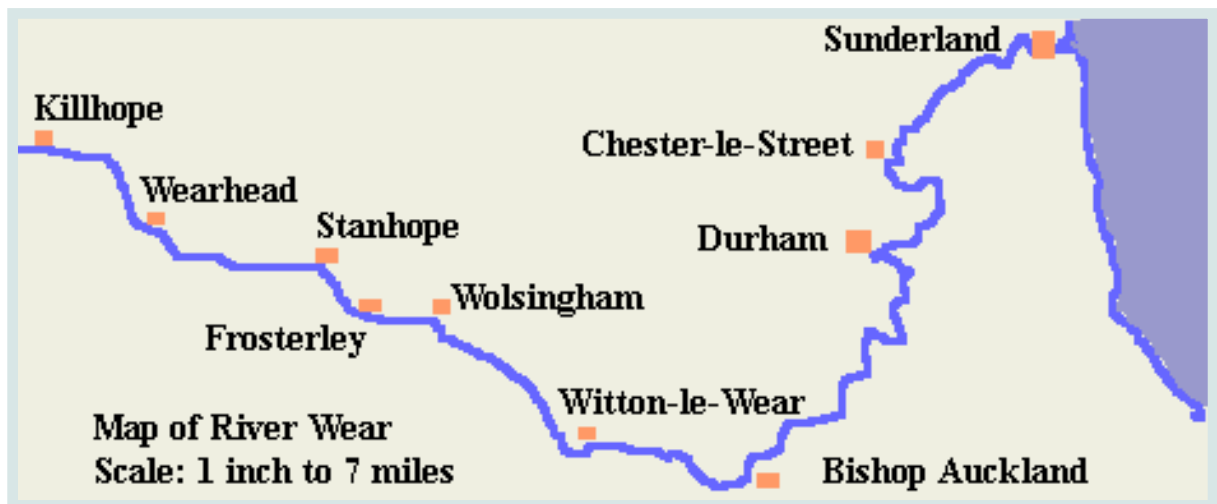
River mouth: The place where the river meets the sea.

Tributaries: Small rivers and streams that join the main river.

Flora: All the plant life present in a particular region or time.

Source to Sea: The River Wear

The Wear is a river in North-East England. The map below shows the River Wear and its journey from where it starts, near Wearhead in County Durham, to Sunderland where it meets the sea. If you have an atlas or map, have a look and see if you can find the River Wear on it, and trace the route it takes with your finger.



Source: www.bridgesonthetyne.co.uk

The **source** of a river is the place where it starts, and the **river mouth** is the place where it meets the sea. The River Wear also has many **tributaries**, which are smaller streams and rivers that join onto it somewhere down its path to the sea. The River Wear's tributaries include the **River Gaunless**, which joins at *Bishop Auckland*, the **River Browney** which joins at *Croxdale* and the **Cong Burn** which joins at *Chester-le-Street*.

The River Wear is one of the North-East's longest rivers at about 60 miles long, flowing east and passing through towns and cities such as Stanhope, Wolsingham, Bishop Auckland, Willington, Durham, Chester-le-Street and finally Sunderland, where it joins the North Sea. There are about seventy-eight foot, road and railway bridges that cross the River Wear on its journey, though not all are in use anymore.

Much of the River Wear shows the history of the Industrial Revolution. Its upper end runs through lead mining country, until this gives way to coal seams of the Durham coalfield for the rest of its length. As a result of limestone quarrying, lead mining and coal mining, the Wear valley was amongst the first places to see the development of railways. The Weardale Railway continues to run occasional services between Stanhope and Wolsingham.

The moorlands of Upper Weardale, where the River Wear begins, has a **flora** which survives from the end of the last Ice Age. After the Ice Age, areas of the Wear valley became thickly forested. Since the Ice Age, the forests were progressively cleared for agriculture, and most of the land that it travels through these days are fields and farmland.