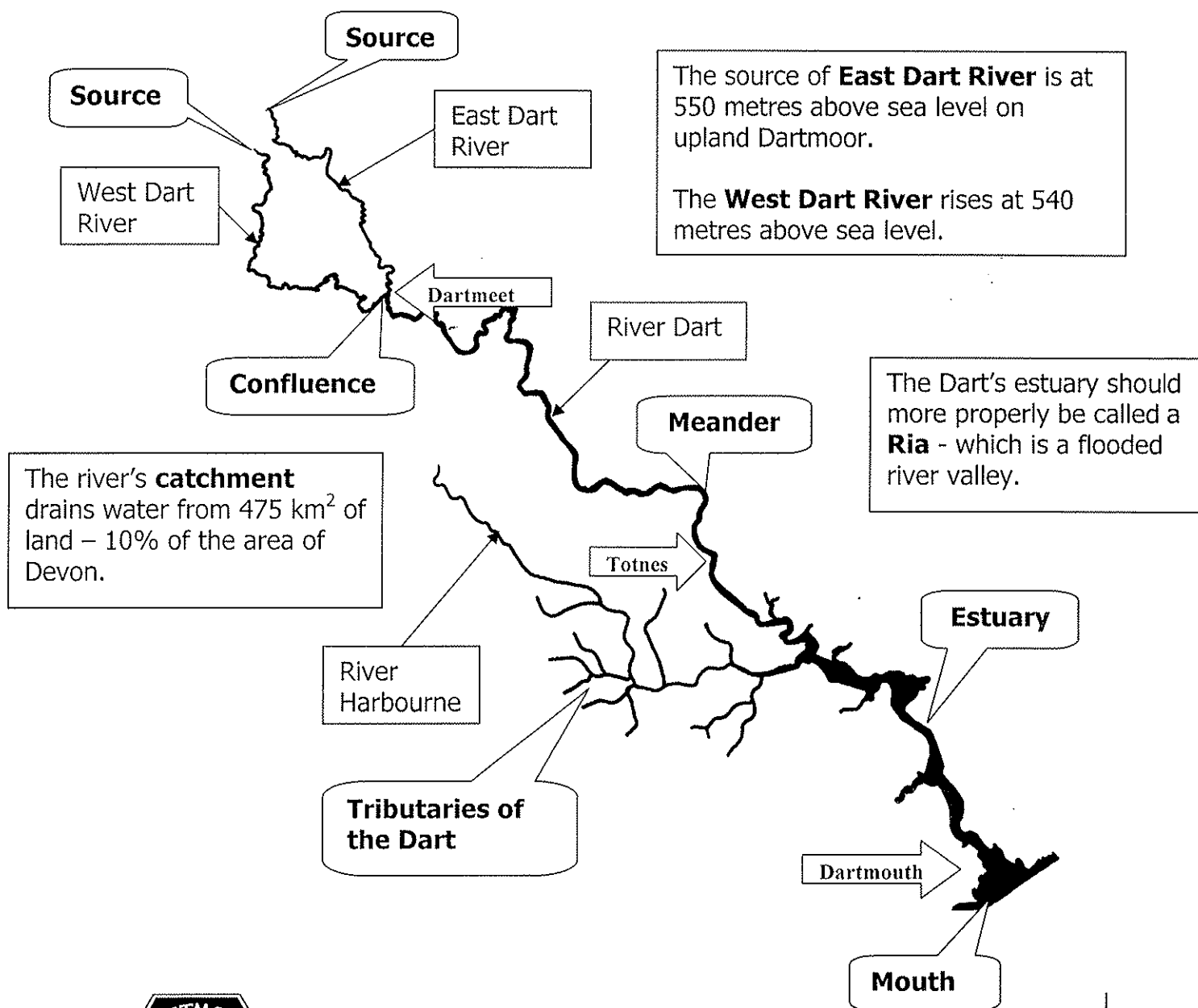


Education Topic sheet: River Dart

The **River Dart** starts its journey on the high northern plateau of Dartmoor and makes its way to the sea at Dartmouth. The simplified illustration of the river below shows you some of the **geographical features** along its course. Use a good quality map (Ordnance Survey or similar) to identify further features and specific places. One of the **tributaries** of the Dart - the **River Harbourne** - is shown in more detail. See overleaf for more information and some suggestions for activities.



OR Aug 2005

Dartmoor National Park Authority Education Service

Education Topic sheet: River Dart

You will need a good quality map – such as Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure Map number 28 **Dartmoor** and number 20 **South Devon** (1:25,000 scale).
You may also like to visit sites along the river to gather more information.

1 The following are all tributaries of the Dart, can you find them?

- Am Brook
- Bidwell Brook
- Blackbrook River
- Cherry Brook
- Cowsic River
- Dean Burn
- East Dart River
- East Webburn River
- Gatcombe Brook
- Harbourne River
- Holy Brook
- River Ashburn
- River Hems
- River Mardle
- River Swincombe
- River Wash
- Walla Brook
- West Dart River
- West Webburn River

2 Where is the Normal Tidal Limit?

The Normal Tidal Limit is shown on maps by the abbreviation NTL and it marks a change from freshwater to tidal waters – the river becomes an estuary.

3 Landscape features change down the Long Profile of a river (not including the estuary) – can you see or find evidence of any of the following – either by using the map or by visiting the river?

In the Upper course:

- V-shaped valley
- Potholes
- Interlocking spurs
- Waterfalls
- Rapids
- Gorges

In the Middle course:

- Asymmetrical channel
- Floodplain
- Truncated spurs
- Meanders
- River cliff

In the Lower course:

You won't see the typical features because the Dart's lower course has been drowned by rising sea levels and this feature is called a **ria**.

4 River processes also change down the long profile of a river – visit the Dart and see if you can find evidence of changes in the following.

- Erosion
- Transportation
- Deposition
- Bedload type
- Velocity (speed of flow)

5 Two of the major settlements along the Dart are marked (Totnes and Dartmouth) – can you find and name any more settlements? Are the settlements all on the River Dart or their tributaries?

