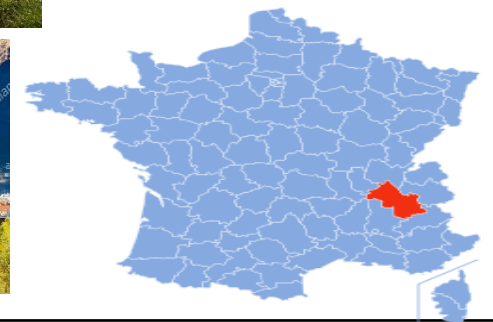


Year 5 – Altcar/Formby and Isère Valley: Is a floodplain a hazard or an opportunity?

Key Vocabulary

Alp	A large mountain range dominating Central Europe, including parts of Italy, France, Switzerland, etc.
current	The steady, predictable movement of water in large bodies of water, like rivers, lakes and oceans.
dam	A structure built across a river or stream to hold back water.
Floodplain	A generally flat area of land next to a river or stream.
Flood zone	An area where flooding occurs regularly.
Hydro-power	A form of energy that uses the power of water in motion to generate electricity.
Renewable/ Green energy	Energy made from resources that nature will replace, like wind, water and sunshine.
drainage	Where water drains from an area or place.
source	The place where a river begins.
farmland	Land that is used for or is suitable for farming.
industrial	The use of land for the production of supplying of goods, services or resources.



Did you know?

In the 1950s, the river Alt flowed around 100m closer to Formby. Humans can use technology to change the shape and direction of rivers.

Key knowledge

- The floodplain in the Altcar/Formby area has been used as farmland for many years – and there is little industrial land use in this area.
- The floodplain in the Isère Valley outside Grenoble is also used for farming (such as vineyards) but land is also used for industrial purposes including creating hydro-electricity.
- Hydro-electricity is a very effective source of green energy.
- In some flood zones buildings can suffer major damage and people can have their homes and businesses destroyed.
- Floodplains can be built on but it requires very careful planning.
- Some flood zones can also offer opportunities: it can make land more fertile for farming, and provide a way to create green energy.
- The UK maps its floodzones along its many rivers.