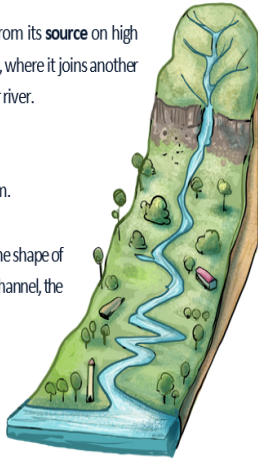


What is a river and how is it formed?

A river is a naturally flowing **body of water** that travels from its **source** on high ground, across the land, and eventually reaches its mouth, where it joins another body of water, such as a lake, the sea, an ocean, or another river.

A river flows along a channel.
It has riverbanks on both sides and a riverbed at the bottom.

Rivers begin as small **streams** flowing downhill, following the shape of the land through a **channel**. As more water **collects** in the channel, the stream widens and deepens, becoming a **river**.



Key features of the course of a river



upper course:

steep slopes, narrow channel, shallow depth, fast flow, waterfalls, V-shaped valleys



middle course:

gentler slopes, wider channel, deeper depth, slower flow, meanders, erosion



lower course:

flat land, very wide and deep channel, slowest flow, floodplains, oxbow lake, estuary

Rivers Knowledge Organiser

What you will already know:

- You will already know countries in the UK
- You will know how to use a map and atlas to identify key physical features
- You will already know and understand the water cycle

By the end of the unit, you should be able to:

Sense of place

- Name and locate main rivers of the UK.

Physical Geography

- Begin to understand the different parts of a river.
- Explain how a river changes from source to mouth.
- Understand the water cycle and how rivers fit into it.

Human Geography

- Understand how rivers affect people and the environment.

Geographical Skills

- Use fieldwork, maps with more complex keys and graphic representations and atlases to explore a local river.
- Use maps and digital/computer mapping to describe the features studied.

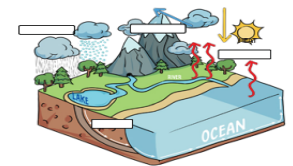
Vocabulary you will learn:

Word	Meaning
Source	The beginning of a river, often in hills or mountains.
Mouth	Where a river flows into the sea or a lake.
Tributary	A smaller river that joins a larger one.
Confluence	The point where two rivers meet.
Channel	The path a river follows.
Riverbank	The sides of the river.
Riverbed	The bottom of the river channel.
Erosion	When water wears away rocks and soil.
Deposition	When a river drops the material it has been carrying.
Meander	A bend or curve in a river.
Floodplain	Flat land next to a river that often floods.
Delta	Land formed at the mouth of a river from deposited material.
Estuary	The wide lower part of a river where it meets the sea.
Water	The journey water takes as it moves around the

How does the water cycle keep rivers flowing?

Precipitation from rain or melting snow continually adds water to rivers, lakes and oceans.

Some water **flows** over the land into **streams** and **rivers**, forming small **channels** where the land has been worn away by **erosion**.



Other water **absorbs** into the ground, travelling through soil and rock until it emerges in springs that feed rivers

This **movement** means rivers are constantly supplied with **fresh water**, which flows from their **source** to their **mouth**.