

Knowledge Organiser - Geography - How do rivers shape the landscape?

Key Vocabulary

condensation	is when water vapour cools and turns back into a liquid..
current	The current is the direction of flow of water in a river.
dam	A dam is a barrier built across a river to stop the flow and to store water, e.g. the Aswan dam across the River Nile in Egypt.
delta	A delta is a large flat piece of land created by the river that is shaped like a triangle (the shape of the Greek letter delta).
deposits	Material such as earth, sand or stones, dropped by a river.
erosion	is the wearing away of something, like the land by a river.
estuary	An estuary is a body of water where salt and freshwater mix.
evaporation	is when liquid water turns into a gas, water vapour.
infiltration	is when water soaks through the ground through soil and rock and runs off the ground into rivers and into the sea.
meanders	Bends in a river are called meanders.
mouth	The place where a river reaches the sea is the mouth.
pesticides	A pesticide is a substance used by farmers to kill unwanted insects and pests which harm their crops.
precipitation	is when water droplets fall from the clouds in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet.
reservoir	A large lake (natural or man made) that is used as a water supply is called a reservoir.
source	The start of a river is its source.
toxin	A toxin is a poison.
transpiration	is when liquid water in plants becomes warm and turns back into a gas, water vapour, leaving the plant through its leaves.
tributary	is a smaller river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

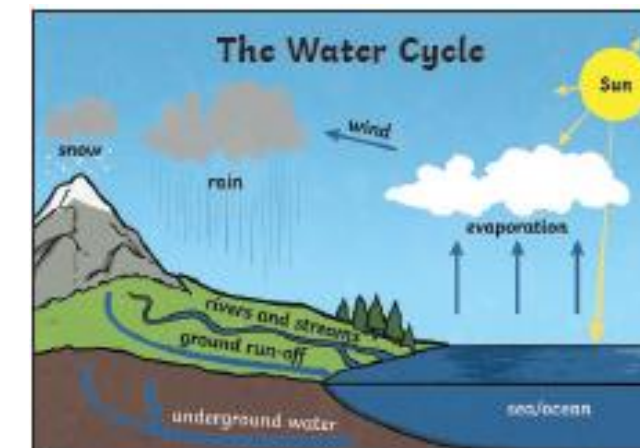
The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.



Some rivers join up with other rivers (**tributaries**). The point where they meet is called a **confluence**.

The **source** of most rivers is on high ground or in the mountains.

Rivers in England, at their **mouth**, will flow into either the: North Sea, Irish Sea, English **Channel** or Atlantic Ocean.



Rivers in Britain

Thames - London - 184 miles long

Tyne - Newcastle - 73 miles long

Bain - North Yorkshire - 2 miles long

Severn - Wales/Bristol - 220 miles long

Mersey - Liverpool - 70 miles long