

Year 3 Rivers Spring 1

Vocabulary

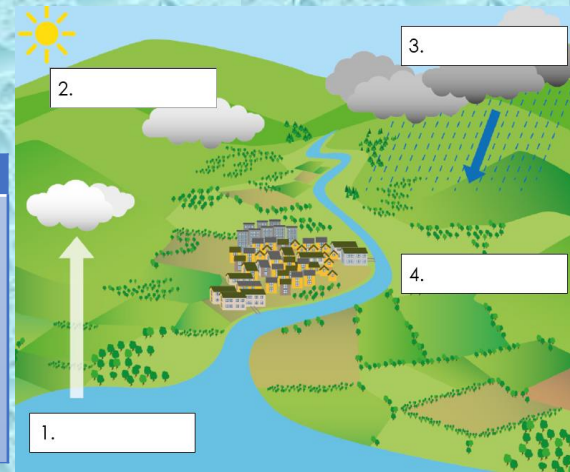
erosion	The wearing away of a material
transportation	to carry from one place to another
deposition	When a river leaves material such as pebbles, rocks or mud behind
landform	any of the earth's features that have been formed by natural forces of movement or erosion, such as a hill or valley,
valley	a long area of low land between mountains or hills. A stream or river often runs through a valley.
gorge	a narrow space between rocky cliffs
waterfall	a stream of water that falls from a higher place
rapids	Fast flowing water in the upper course of a river
flood plain	a wide, flat area of land next to a river that floods when the river overflows
hydro-electric power	Renewable energy created by the movement of river water

What is a River?

A river is a large, natural stream of flowing water. Rivers are found on every continent and on nearly every kind of land. Some flow all year round. Others flow seasonally or during wet years. A river may be only kilometers long, or it may span much of a continent

Activity: What is the difference between a river process and feature?

- **River processes:** The actions that the flow of water and the load it carries have on the landscape.
- **River features:** The parts of the river landscape that stand out in a landscape giving it its distinctive characteristics and look.



The Water Cycle

The sun heats up water in seas and rivers. The liquid water is turned into a vapour by evaporation [1]. As the vapour rises, salt in the water is left behind. As the vapour rises, it gets colder. It begins to turn back into liquid water. This is called condensation [2]. These droplets form clouds. When the droplets get too big and heavy, they fall as rain, hail, sleet or snow. This is called precipitation [3]. Water soaks deep into the ground. It's known as groundwater [4]. Some water runs into lakes, rivers and the ocean and the cycle starts again

River processes

The three main processes are:

- **Erosion**, involving the **wearing away of the channel, its bed and sides.**
- The movement of the eroded material is called **transportation.**
- **Deposition** is also a process, which creates associated features.

World's Longest Rivers	
	Nile – 6695km (Africa)
	Amazon – 6516km (South America)
	Yangtze – 6380km (Asia)
	Mississippi/Missouri – 5969km (North America.)
	Murray/Darling – 3672km (Australia)

The River System: from source to mouth

The upper course, typically but not always, has deep, narrow, V-shaped valleys with interlocking spurs or land, turbulent streams, rocks and boulders, rapids, pools and waterfalls.

The middle course has deeper valleys, emerging floodplains and meanders, a deeper channel and faster more efficient flow.

The lower course has a wide-open valley, flatter land, looping meanders and finally the muddy estuary.

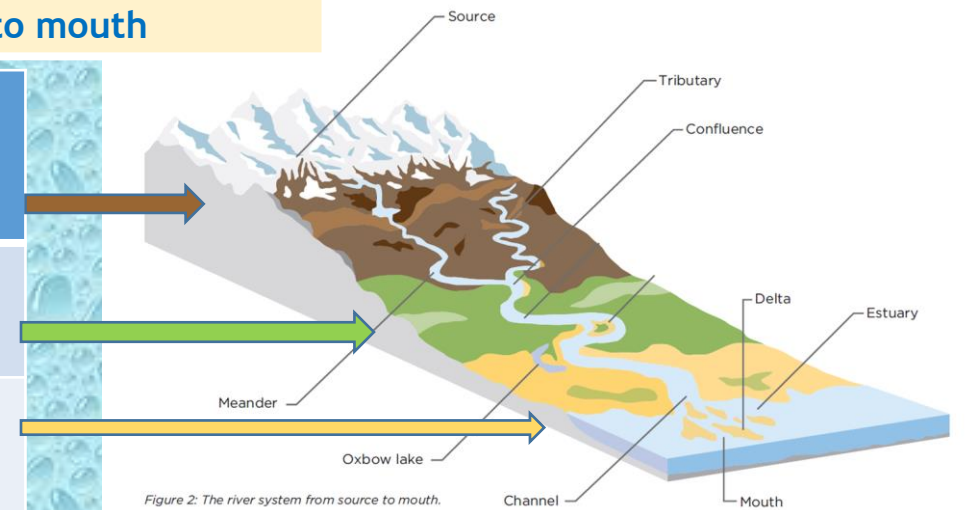


Figure 2: The river system from source to mouth.

FACT The five longest rivers in the UK are:

	Length (km)	Source	Mouth
1. River Severn	354	Plynlimon, Mid Wales	Severn Estuary
2. River Thames	346	Thames Head near the hamlet of Kemble, Gloucestershire	North Sea, Southend-on-Sea
3. River Trent	297	Trent Head Well, Biddulph Moor Staffordshire	Humber Estuary
4. River Great Ouse	230	Wappenham in Northamptonshire	King's Lynn, the Wash
5. River Wye	215	Plynlimon, Mid-Wales	Severn Estuary