

River Journey

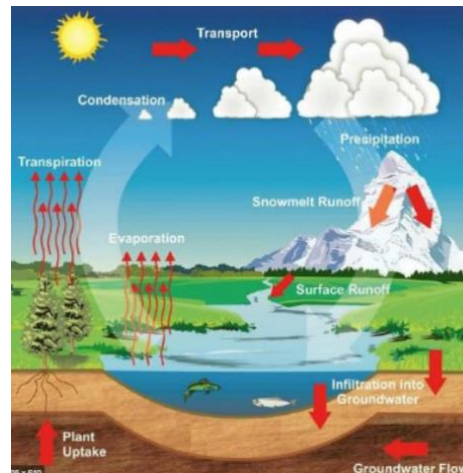
Source 	The start of a river is its source. It is where it begins its journey. This could be a spring on a hillside, a mountain, a lake, or a bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.
Waterfall 	An area where water flows over a vertical drop or a series of steep drops in the course of a river. Soft rock is eroded by water which leaves a hard rock ledge from which the water falls.
Meanders 	A curve in a river which forms a snake-like pattern. The river erodes sediment on the outside of the curves and drops it on the inside of curves due to water moving fastest on the outside of a turn.
Mouth 	The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake is known as the mouth of the river. Much of the river's gravel, sand, silt and clay are deposited here.
Delta 	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea at a very slow speed, or often in still/stagnant water. The river slows and drops all the sediment that it was carrying, creating a wide, marshy area.

How does the water cycle work?

1. Water evaporates into the air	The sun heats up water on land, in rivers, lakes and seas and turns it into water vapour.
2. Water vapour condenses into Clouds	Water vapour in the air cools down and changes back into tiny drops of liquid water, forming clouds.
3. Water falls as precipitation	The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the ground in the form of rain or snow.
4. Water returns to the sea	Rain water runs over the land and collects in lakes or rivers, which take it back to the sea. The cycle starts all over again.

Rivers and The Water Cycle

A river is the path that water takes as it flows along a channel downhill with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom. If there is lots of rain, snow or melting ice, rivers often overflow beyond the top of their banks and begin to flow onto floodplains at either side.



Key Vocabulary

channel	a path of a narrow body of water where water flows
estuary	mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
gorge	narrow valley with steep, rocky walls through hills/mountains
River Severn	Longest river in the U.K. (354km) through the city of Bristol
River Thames	346km long river running through the city of London
canal	man-made water channels for flow, vehicles and irrigation
basin	land drained by a river and its tributaries
floodplain	flat area around a river that often gets flooded
irrigation	supply of water to land or crops to help growth
bank	the land at the side of the river
weir	low dam built across a river to raise the level of water
bridge	structure built to allow people to cross a river
pumping station	facilities including pumps / equipment for pumping water from one place to another, supplying water to canals, removing sewage to processing sites and to drain land
tributary	smaller river which joins onto the main channel of a river
precipitation	This is another word for any form of moisture which falls to the Earth. This includes rain, snow, hail and sleet.
condensation	If water vapour (gas) is cooled down, it changes into water(liquid). This change is called condensation.
evaporation	If water (liquid) is heated, it changes to water vapour (gas). This change is called evaporation.
collection	The fallen precipitation is then "collected" in bodies of water – such as rivers, lakes and ocean.
clouds	a visible mass of condensed watery vapor floating in the atmosphere, typically high above the general level of the ground.
vapour	Water vapor is water that is in the form of a vapor, or gas.

Erosion and Deposition

Erosion is when materials, like soil or rocks, are moved by water. All these materials are called sediments. Deposition is when those sediments are deposited, or dropped off, in a different place. When rivers are flowing fast, they knock bits of earth from the banks and bed of the river (its sides and bottom) and carry it downstream with them.

World's Longest Rivers

Nile – 6695km (Africa)
Amazon – 6516km (South America)
Yangtze – 6380km (Asia)
Mississippi/Missouri – 5969km (North America)
Murray/Darling – 3672km (Australia)