

Topic: Rivers. Where do they come from and where do they go?

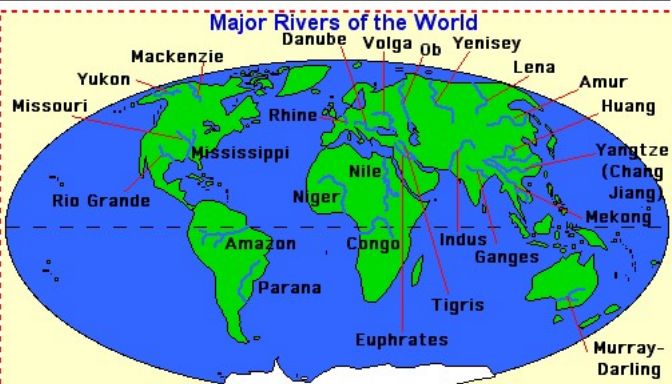
What should I already know?

- The names of some key rivers around the world including the Mersey, Thames and the Nile.
- The water cycle and where our water comes from.
- How sedimentary rocks are formed.
- The effects of climate change on the poles.

Oceans, Seas and Rivers - what is the difference?

- Oceans are very large areas of salt water that cover approximately two-thirds of the Earth's surface.
- Seas are smaller areas of salt water that separate oceans and land.
- Rivers are natural streams of fresh water that flow into seas, oceans and lakes.

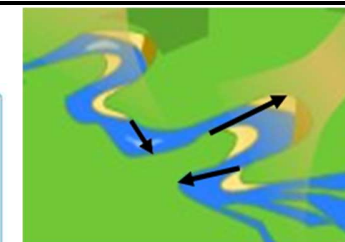
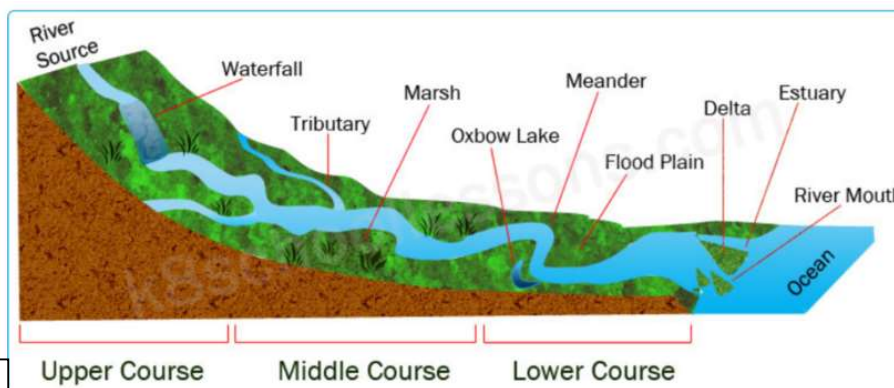
A river is a moving body of water that flows from its source on high ground, across land, and then into another body of water, which could be a lake, the sea, an ocean or even another river. A river flows along a channel with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom. If there is lots of rainfall, or snow or ice melting, rivers often rise over the top of their banks and begin to flow onto the floodplains at either side.



The River Nile in northeast Africa is the world's longest river.

Vocabulary

confluence	where two rivers join and become a larger river
course	the channel along which the river flows
current	a steady and continuous flowing movement of some of the water in a river, lake, or sea
delta	an area of low land where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea
deposition	when a substance has been left somewhere as a result of a process
erosion	the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil in a particular area by rivers, the sea, or the weather
estuary	the wide part of a river where it joins the sea
lake	a large area of fresh water, surrounded by land
meander	a large bend in a river
mouth	where a river flows into the sea
ocean	one of the five very large areas of salt water on the Earth's surface.
sedimentary	solid material that settles at the bottom of a liquid, especially earth and pieces of rock that have been carried along and then left somewhere by water, ice, or wind
source	where something comes from
spring	a natural outflow of ground water
stream	a small narrow river
tributary	a stream or river that flows into a larger one
water cycle	the circulation of the earth's water
waterfall	a place where water flows over the edge of a steep, high cliff in hills or mountains, and falls into a pool below



The arrows show the direction of the river current which causes erosion over time.

Sometimes, two meanders can join together to form a 'shortcut'. Water will flow down the shorter route. deposition will