

Key Information

The upper course is the section at the beginning of the river, nearest the source. Rivers usually begin in an upland area, like the top of a mountain.

The middle course is section of the river which comes between the upper and lower course. It is usually wider and deeper than the upper course and the water flows slowly.

The lower course is the final section of a river which flows into another body of water which could be a loch, the sea, an ocean or even another river.

Vocabulary

source - where a river begins

mouth - where a river enters the sea or ocean

tributary - where a river enters a lake or a larger river

estuary - where the freshwaters of a river meet the salty waters of the sea

meander - a curve or bend in a river

erosion - the process where the materials of a river are worn away

deposition - when a river loses energy and drops the material it is carrying

sewage - waste materials carried from homes to sewers

Key diagram

