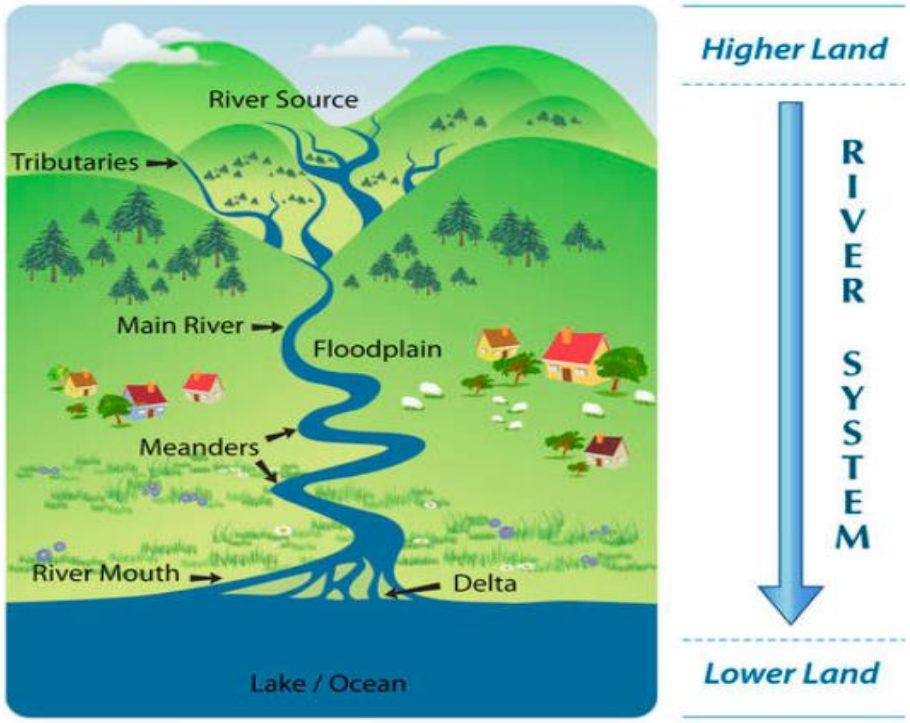
St Stephen's Kearsley Moor CE Primary School
Believe and Achieve

What journey does a river take?

Enquiry Questions

1. What is a river system?
2. How are the different parts of a river characterised?
3. Where are the major rivers located in both the world and UK?
4. What are the processes in the water cycle and how do they work?
5. How are river features such as ox-bow lakes and waterfalls created?
6. What are the major causes of river pollution?
7. How can we remove pollution from the water in rivers?
8. How have rivers been used throughout history?

Features of a River

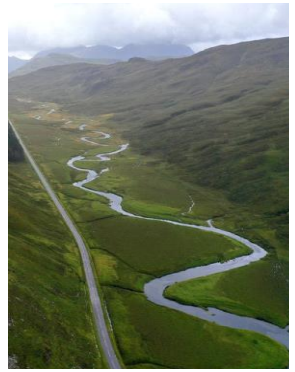


Golden Threads

change
conservation
maps
settlement

What is a River?

A river is a natural flowing watercourse, usually freshwater stream, flowing on the surface or inside caves towards another waterbody at a lower elevation, such as an ocean, sea, bay, lake, wetland, or another river.



Key Vocabulary

River = A naturally flowing watercourse, moving freshwater from source to sea.

Flood = The point at which the amount of water in the river channel exceeds capacity, causing the river to burst its banks.

Groundwater Water = held underground in soil or rocks

Precipitation = Any liquid that falls from our atmosphere, including rainfall, snowfall and hail.

Mouth = The place where the river enters the ocean.

Source = The origin of the river - where it begins.

Condensation = Water that collects on a cold surface when humid air (air full of moisture) comes into contact.

Confluence = The junction of two rivers.

Evaporation = A change in state from liquid to gas. This happens to water as heat from the sun causes water to turn to gas, creating water vapour.

Meander = A natural bend in the river caused by different rates of erosion and deposition.

Erosion = The removal of sediment that occurs when the river has high levels of energy.

Deposition = The dropping of sediment by the river when the river has lower levels of energy.

Infiltration = The rate at which the ground will absorb water. Different types of ground will have different infiltration rates.

Uses of Rivers

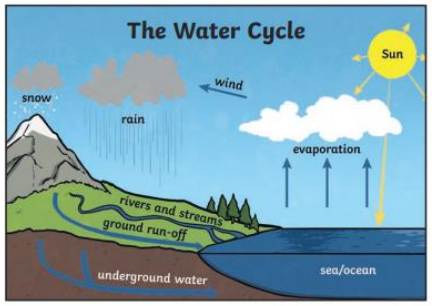
Settlements have been built next to rivers for thousands of years because rivers provided essential water, food and power for people in the past. Today, rivers provide habitats for wildlife, hydroelectric power and water for crops. Rivers are also used for leisure activities, such as canoeing and fishing, and for transporting goods and people.

What is a Meander?

A meander is a bend in a river. They are found mainly in lowland areas and are an extremely common in the middle course of a river

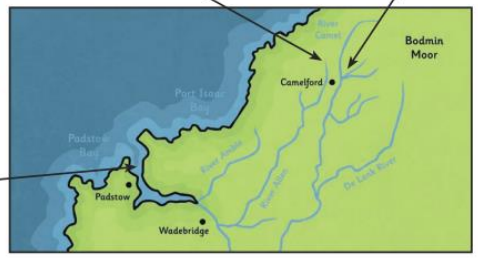
What is an Oxbow Lake?

An oxbow lake is a U-shaped lake or pool that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water.



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.

Flooding

Fluvial	Pluvial	Coastal	Plumbing
			
Lots of rainfall causing rivers to burst their banks.	Heavy rainfall cannot drain away quickly enough.	High tides and storms.	Broken pipes in buildings.

Flooding can be prevented in some areas by building **dams** and flood barriers. However, blocking a river at one location can cause flooding further up or downstream.

World Rivers

Places

The River Severn is the longest river in the UK and is 354km long.

The River Thames flows through England's capital city, London.

The River Yare and River Wensum flowthrough Norwich. The Yare forms part of The Norfolk Broads.