**Rivers**

**Year 4 – Rivers & Mountains**

***Estuary*** – where a river meets the sea.***Flooding*** – the overflow of water onto land that is usually dry.***Floodplain*** – an area of flat land around a river that is covered when the river floods.***Gorge*** – a deep narrow valley with steep sides, usually where a river passes through.***Meander*** – a winding curve or bend in a river.***Mouth*** – the end of a river where it flows into another body of water such as the sea or a lake.***Rapids*** – part of a river where the water moves very fast, often over rocks.***Sediment*** – bits of rock and soil that are carried along by a river and deposited when the river slows down.***Source*** – the start of a river.***Spring*** – a point where water flows out of the ground.***Stream*** – a small river.***Valley*** – a long area of lower land, often between hills and created by rivers.***Waterfall*** – where the water from a river or stream flows over a steep drop, often landing in a plunge pool below.

* A moving body of water.
* Begin when rain falls on high ground and flow downhill.
* They flow and bend **(meander)** as they cross the land and go around hills/rocks.
* They flow until they reach another body of water.
* As they flow, they erode the land.
* Over a long period of time rivers create valleys, or gorges and canyons.

Rivers are an important part of the water cycle. They are responsible for transferring water to oceans.

* **Mountains:**
* Areas of land that are much higher than the land surrounding them.
* They are often found together in a group called a **mountain range**.
* Mountain ranges are created by sections of Earth pushing together and forcing the ground up where

 they meet.

* Mountains can also be ancient volcanoes.

**Summit** – The top of a mountain. **Foot** – The bottom of the mountain.

**Face** – The side of a mountain. **Valley** – The area of low land between mountains.

**Slope** – An area of ground increasing in height. **Plateau** - An area of flat, high ground.

**Ridge** – A long, narrow, high section of land.

**Base** – the bottom of a mountain.