

## Key questions

- 1) How does a river begin its journey?
- 2) What path does the river take?
- 3) What path do local rivers take?
- 4) What benefits does the river bring?
- 5) What damage does a river cause?
- 6) What does a river see on its journey?



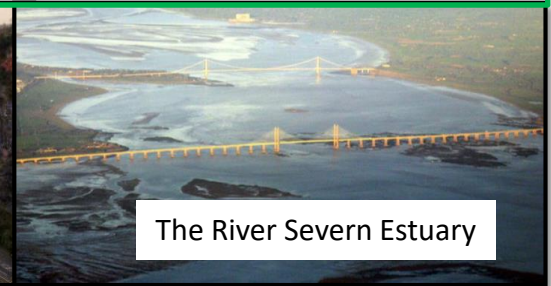
River benefits:  
Hydroelectric power in North Wales



River damage:  
Flooding on the River Severn in Shropshire



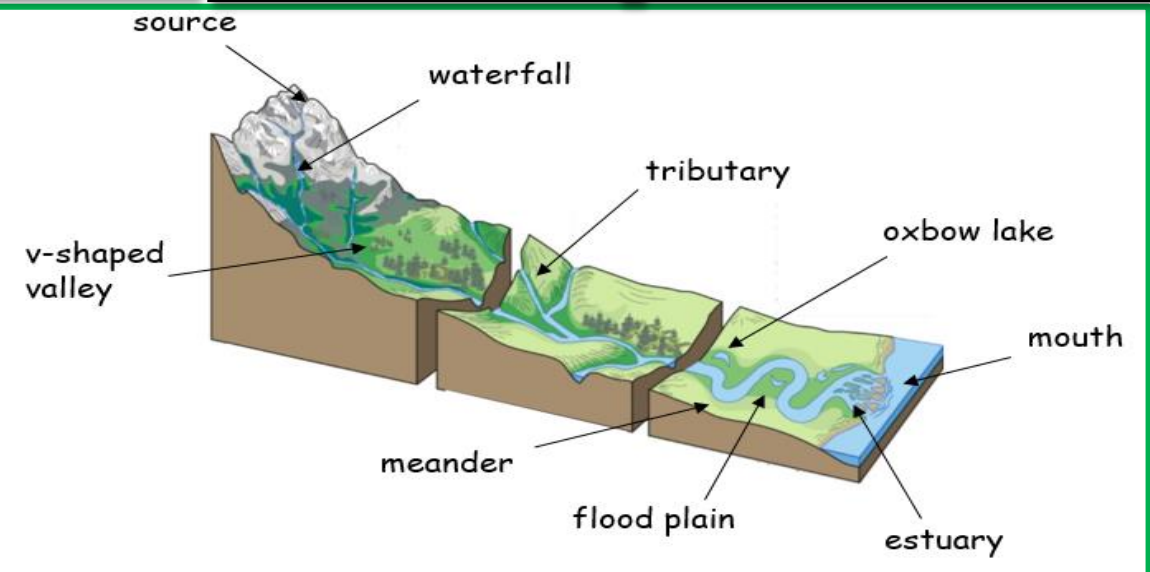
The River Avon Gorge



The River Severn Estuary

# What does a river see on its journey?

Course	The journey of a river
Source	The start of a river. It can be from runoff rain water, snow, spring or lake
V shaped valley	The shape of the valley for most upper course, young rivers.
Tributary	Where a stream or river joins the main river.
Waterfall	Where the river flows over a vertical drop.
Channel	The width of a river. Its bottom is the bed and the sides are the banks.
Meander	A bend in a river.
Erosion	Where rock and soil is cut away from river banks or the river bed.
Sediment	Dropped or deposited rocks, pebbles and mud
Oxbow lake	A lake formed when a meander is cut off from the river.
Floodplain	Usually a low flat area of land around a river which becomes flooded
Mouth	Where a river meets the sea.
Estuary	Where freshwater from a river mixes with salt water from the sea.



## Key River Information

A river is the path that water takes as it flows downhill to join another river or to join the sea (or sometimes a lake).

Many human settlements were established near rivers as they offer drinking water, a defence against attack and a route for trade.

Rivers often flood and can cause destruction and deaths.