

What does a river see on its journey?

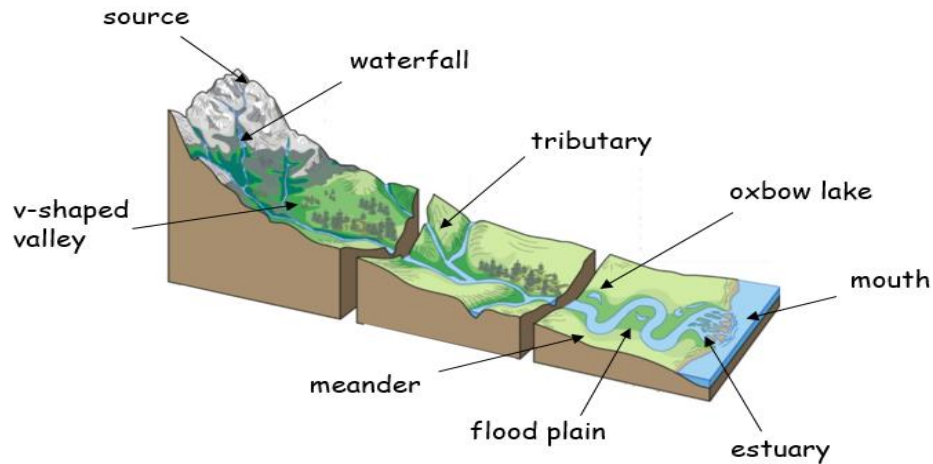
The course of a river

Rivers are bodies of water that move across land. The **course** is the journey the river takes.

All rivers can be split into three sections:

Upper course
Middle course
Lower course

The key features of a river



What can make flooding worse?

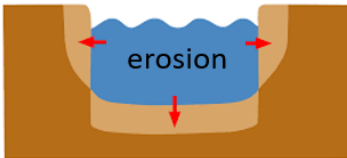


Key Vocabulary

source	the start of a river. It can come from runoff rain water, snow, a spring or a 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.
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.

Erosion

As a river reaches its middle course, the fast flowing water causes **erosion**. This makes the channel deeper and wider.



Deposition

As river slows down in the lower course, it **deposits** or drops rocks, mud and other material. This is called **sediment**.



What benefits can a river bring?



survival



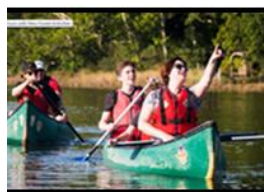
food



energy



transport



fun