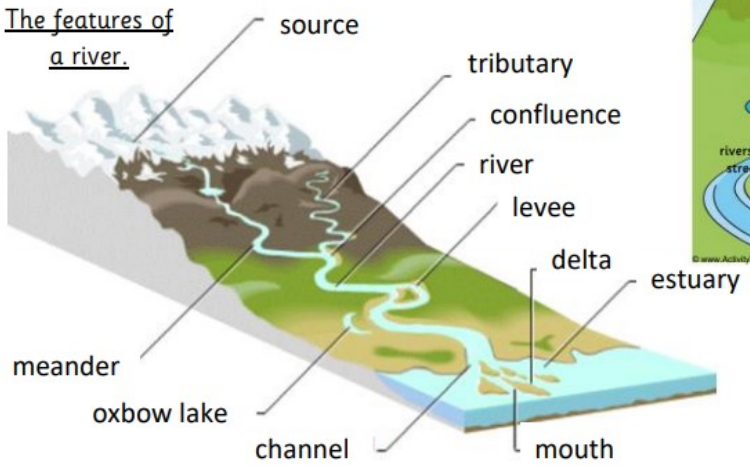
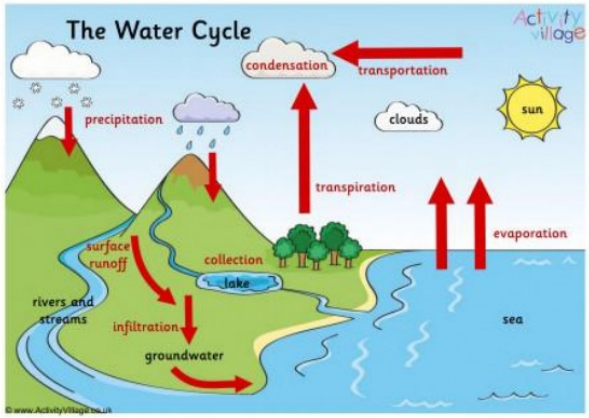
Rivers

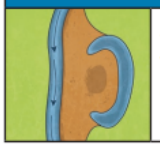




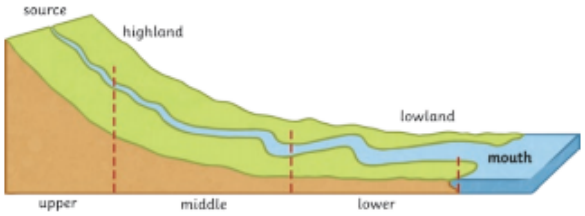
Meander - a curve in the river

Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through erosion. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river deposits eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.



	Upper Course	Middle Course	Lower Course
Gradient	Steep gradient	more gentle gradient	Flat gradient
Velocity	Low velocity	Faster velocity	Fastest velocity
Features	Waterfalls, gorges, and rapids	Meanders, Ox bow lakes, floodplains	Floodplains, deltas, estuaries
Channel	Narrow and shallow channel	Wider and deeper channel	Widest and deepest channel

Famous Rivers

Our local river is the River Sowe, which is a tributary of the River Avon.

Some famous rivers are: Amazon River, Brazil; River Thames, London; River Nile, Egypt.

Humans

Humans have many uses for rivers e.g. tourism, industry, transport, leisure and hydroelectric power. These uses can have positive and negative effects on the river.

Key Vocabulary

Channel	The path of a river.
Confluence	The place where two rivers meet.
Delta	Land formed at a river's mouth, where sediment is dropped off.
Deposition	When rock that has been worn away is
Estuary	The really wide part of a river where it joins the sea (becomes salt water).
Erosion	When the river bed and bank are worn away by the actions of the river.
Load	All the bits of rock, sand or soil carried along in the river.
Mouth	The end of a river, where it enters a lake, sea or ocean.
Sediment	The rock, sand and soil that is carried along and dropped off by the river.
Source	The place where a river begins.
Tributary	A small river or stream that meets a large river.