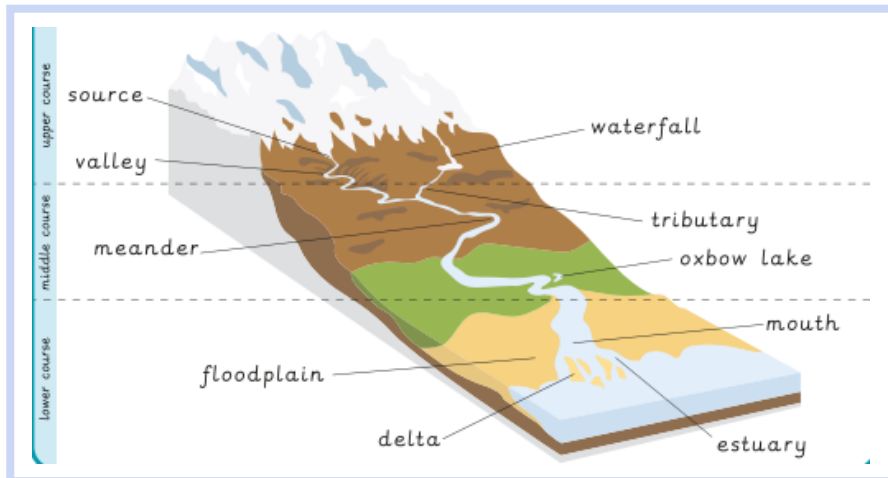


Year 4 : What are rivers and how are they used?

River courses and features



How are rivers used?

- Rivers are important habitats for plants and animals.
- They provide a supply of food and drink for humans and animals.
- Rivers can help crops grow by dispersing nutrients and making soil more fertile.
- They offer transport routes for people and goods.
- Rivers can be used for leisure activities.
- Many settlements and communities are built along rivers.
- Some people live on rivers in houseboats.
- Water from rivers can be used for irrigation on farmland.
- Renewable energy, called hydroelectric power, can be generated by moving water.

KEY VOCABULARY



Delta : A wide area near where a river meets the sea which features a build up of sand and sediment.



Estuary The area where fresh water from a river meets salt water from the sea.



Floodplain Areas of flat land on either side of a river that can become flooded.



Meander A bend of curve in a river.



Oxbow lake A bend in a river that has been separated from the main river.



River mouth The place where a river flows into the sea.



Source The place where a river starts

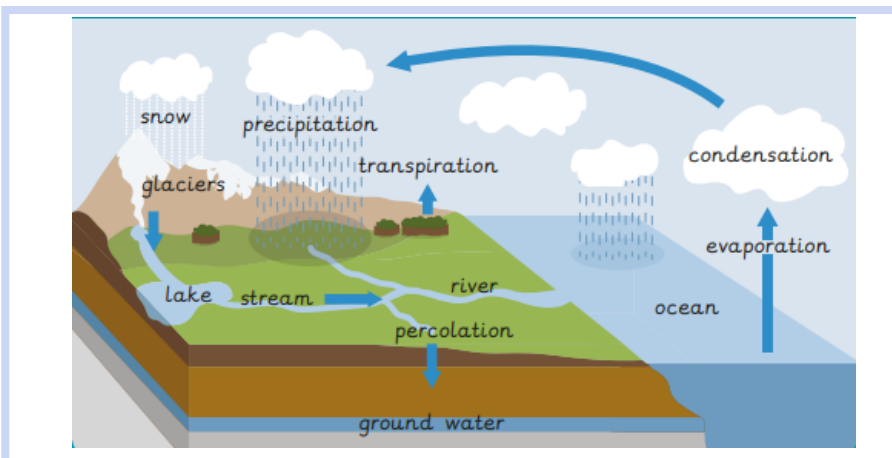


Tributary A stream that flows into a larger stream or river.



Valley An area of low land between two hills or mountains, usually with a river running through it.

The water cycle



Longest River in the UK: The River Severn

Longest River in the world: The Nile, Africa