

Rivers

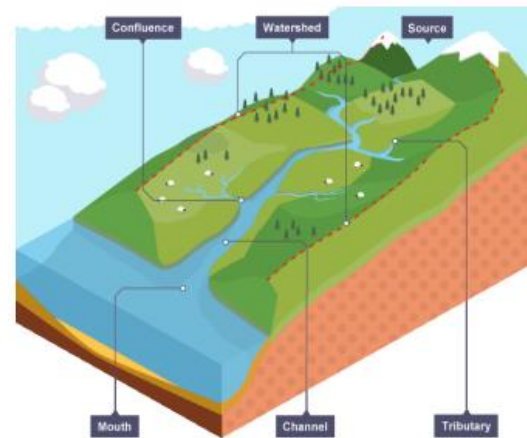
A river is a path that water takes as it flows downhill, normally towards another river, a lake, sea or ocean. Rivers come in many different shapes and sizes, and often join together to make larger rivers. As rivers a ready source of water, lots of plants/ animals often live near or in them. Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers. In addition to drinking and bathing, rivers were also important waterways for trade. Rivers can flood, at which point they can become exceptionally dangerous.

The River Thames begins its journey in a field in the Cotswold Hills near the village of Kemble in Gloucestershire. The source of the river is a spring called Thames Head.

Just west of London, near Slough, the River Thames flows past Windsor Castle.

Next the River Thames flows through the heart of London, the capital city of the United Kingdom.

Finally, the River Thames flows out into the North Sea at its mouth near Southend-On-Sea in the county of Essex.



River	A flowing, moving stream of water
Stream	A small, fast flow of water
Canal	Waterways built by people used for shipping and transport
Reservoir	The store of water that is held back by a dam
Lake	Large bodies of water that are surrounded by land and are not part of an ocean
Source	A huge body of salt water
Channel	Where a river begins its journey
Tributary	A small river or stream that meets a large river
Mouth	Where the river enters the sea
Confluence	Where two rivers meet
Meander	The last section of the river before the sea

Water always flows downhill. This is important for understanding how rivers form, and how they contribute to the water cycle.

Rivers are fresh water - oceans are salt water.

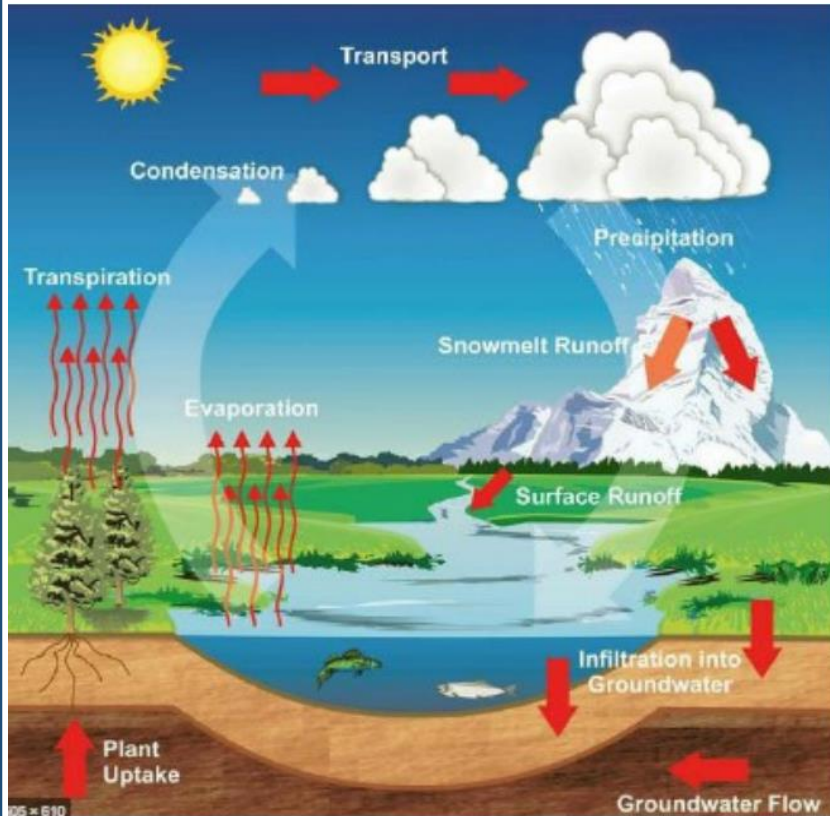
When rivers are flowing quickly, they take bits of earth off banks downstream. This is called erosion.

When there has been too much rainfall, rivers may overflow or 'burst their banks.' This can cause significant flooding.

Off with her head! - Geography Knowledge Organiser

The Water Cycle

The water cycle works by using the energy of the Sun to move water from oceans and lakes to the atmosphere, and then back into the oceans again. It does this over and over in a continuous cycle.



1. When the Sun shines, it warms water up and turns it into a gas - water vapour. This process is called **evaporation**.
2. The water vapour rises and collects in the sky as clouds.
3. The water vapour cools down, condenses and turns back into a liquid. It then falls back to Earth as rain, snow, hail or sleet. These are all types of **precipitation**.
4. Soils absorb the water and rivers drain the water from the land. This water is called **run off**. The state of the soil and the type of vegetation influence how fast and heavy the run off is.
5. The water then flows back to the sea or lakes and the cycle starts again.
6. Water never leaves the Earth and its atmosphere. The water we use today has been around for as long as the Earth.

Keywords

Absorb - soak up or take in

Condensation - small drops of water which form when water vapour or steam touches a cold surface such as a window

Water vapour - water in the gaseous state, especially when due to evaporation at a temperature below the boiling point.

Precipitation - rain, snow, sleet, dew, etc, formed by condensation of water vapour in the atmosphere

Transpiration - evaporation of water from a plant's leaves, stem, or flowers

Evaporation - to turn from liquid into gas; pass away in the form of vapour.

Groundwater - water that is found under the ground. Groundwater has usually passed down through the soil and become trapped by rocks.

Runoff - rain in excess of the amount absorbed by the ground