

What are rivers and how are they used?

Environment
Year 4 Summer 2

Key geographical concepts

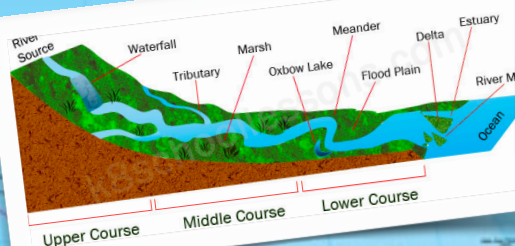
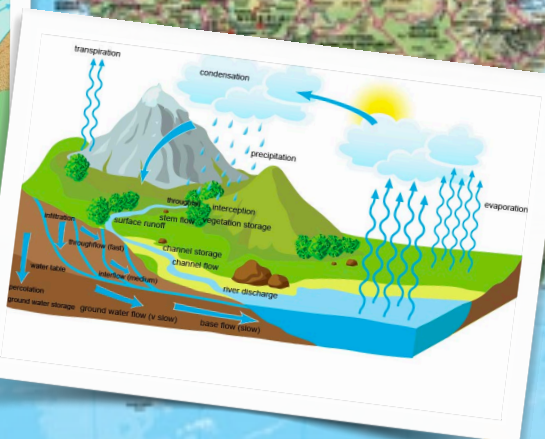
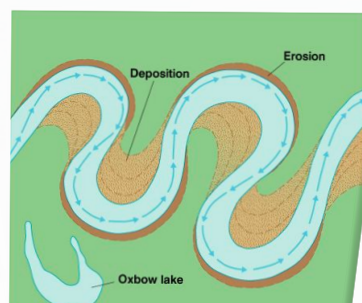
- Human and physical geography
- Fieldwork
- Location

Key learning

- Rivers start at a source, which is usually in hills or mountains, and flow down to their mouth, which can be an estuary.
- Along the way, rivers have meanders which are formed when water in the river erodes the banks on the outside of the channel. The water deposits sediment on the inside of the channel. These can then form oxbow lakes.
- Rivers play a vital role in the water cycle. Rivers collect unabsorbed precipitation from the land surface and return it to the ocean, where the water originated.
- Across the world, rivers are used in a variety of ways such as water sources, transportation and energy.

Key vocabulary

deposition	the laying down of sediment carried by wind, flowing water, the sea or ice
erosion	the geological process in which earthen materials are worn away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water
estuary	an area where a freshwater river or stream meets the ocean
meander	a bend in a river channel
mouth	the place where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean
mud flats	coastal wetlands that form when mud is deposited by tides or rivers
oxbow lake	a U-shaped lake or pool that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water
river bank	the land at either edge of a river
source	the place from where a river originates
tributary	a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake
water cycle	describes how water is exchanged (cycled) through Earth's land, ocean, and atmosphere



Big Ideas – Our Learning Journey

Reception
Environment – Outdoor adventure

Year 1/2
Environment – weather in the UK, Shanghai, hot and cold places, coasts

Year 3/4
Environment – volcanoes, Antarctica, settlements, rivers

Year 5/6
Environment – Mountains, oceans, deserts



Ethics

Should humans interfere with the courses of rivers?