

Our local river - The River Tyne

Key Vocabulary.

What is a river?

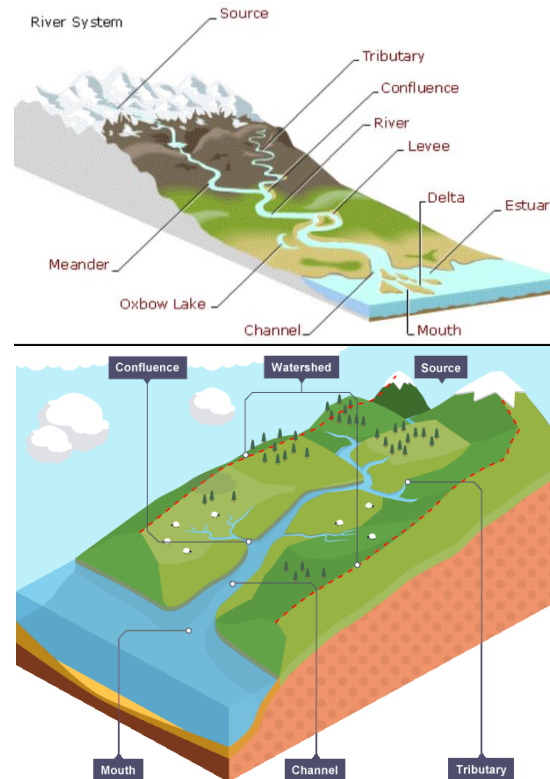
- A river is a path that water takes as it flows downhill.
- Rivers come in many different shapes and sizes, and often join together to make larger rivers.
- As rivers are a ready source of water,
- Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers so they could be used for drinking and bathing.
- Rivers were also important waterways for trade.
- Rivers can flood and they can become dangerous.



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	A winding bend in the river
Estuary	The last section of the river before the sea
Water cycle	The journey of water on the Earth

Features of a river.

- Watershed** - The area of land that drains into a specific river.
- Floodplain** - An (often low-lying) area of land which becomes covered in water when a river overflows.
- Riverbank** - The land immediately along the river. This land is often fertile.
- Flow** - The name given for the amount of water that a river holds. This can change through the year, e.g. in rainy seasons.
- Upper Course** - the section at the beginning of the river, nearest the source.
- Middle Course** - the section of a river that comes between the upper and lower course.
- Lower Course** - the final section of a river which flows into another body of water.



Important facts.

- 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.
- Silt is material carried by running water, for example earth or minerals.
- Sometimes, rivers carry so much silt that they form new land, called a Delta.

