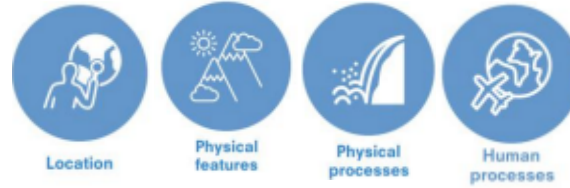


Year: 5
 Term: Summer 2
 Topic: Rivers



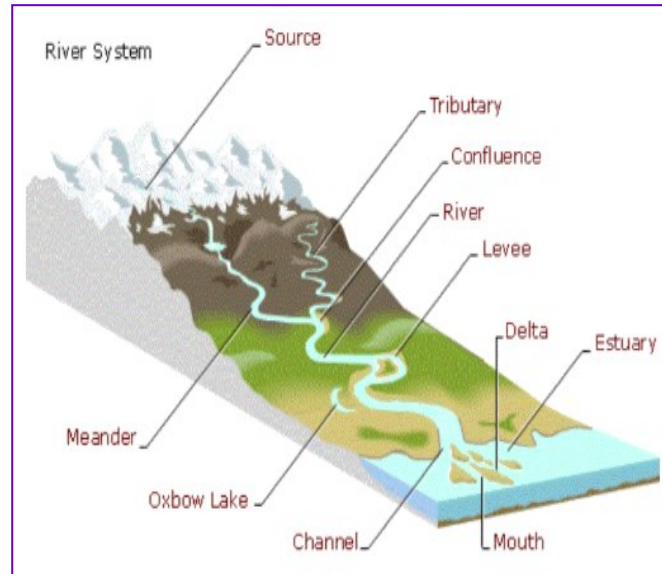
Rivers usually begin in upland areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow downhill. They always flow downhill because of gravity.

They then flow and bend (meander) as they cross the land or go around objects such as hills or large rocks. They flow until they reach another body of water.

As rivers flow, they erode (or wear away) the land.

Over a long period of time rivers create valleys, or gorges and canyons if the river is strong enough to erode rock. They take the sediment (bits of soil and rock) and carry it along with them.

Small rivers are usually known as streams, brooks or creeks. If they flow from underground they are called springs.



Glossary

- channel** A length of water wider than a strait, joining two larger areas of water, especially two seas.
- evaporation** The process of turning from liquid into vapour.
- overland flow** Term used to describe surface flow that is outside the confines of a stream channel.
- Oxbow lake** Formed when a river creates a meander, due to the river eroding the bank.
- precipitation** Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to, or condenses on the ground.
- transporting** Take or carry (people or goods) from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship.
- V-shaped valley** Rivers begin high up in the mountains so they flow quickly downhill eroding the landscape vertically.
- water cycle** The water cycle is the journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again.
- waterfall** A cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline.

