

Frogwell School Year 5 Knowledge Organiser Term 3

What is a river?

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A river is a moving body of water that flows from its **source** on high ground, across land, and then into another body of water, which could be a **lake**, the **sea**, an **ocean** or even another river.

A river flows along a **channel** with **banks** on both sides and a **bed** at the bottom. If there is lots of rainfall, or snow or ice melting, rivers often rise over the top of their banks and begin to flow onto the **floodplains** at either side.

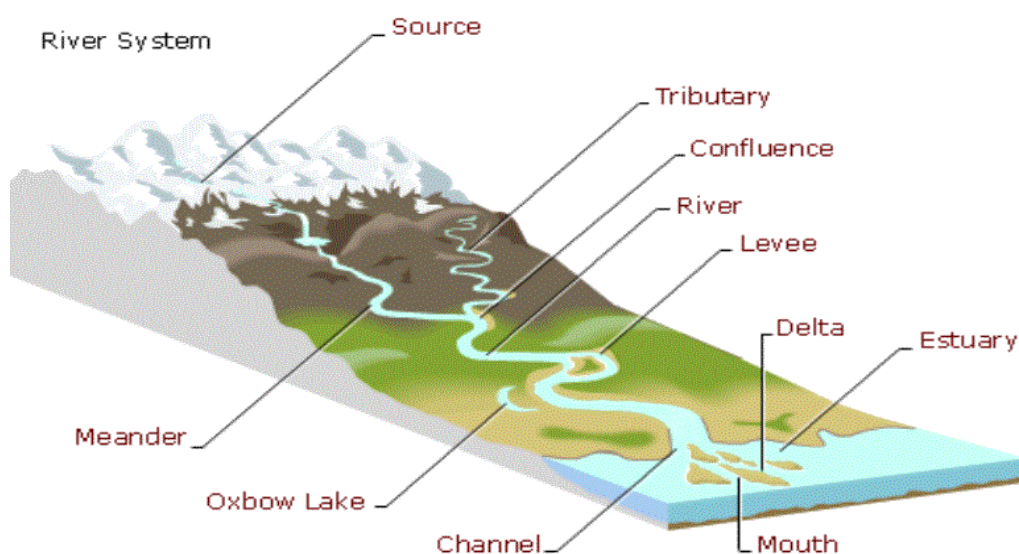
How are rivers formed?

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 across the land - **meandering** - or going 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**.



Key Vocabulary:

<i>channel</i>	A length of water wider than a strait, joining two larger areas of water, especially two seas.	<i>mouth</i>	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river , or the ocean is called its mouth .
<i>confluence</i>	Where two rivers meet.	<i>oxbow lake</i>	An oxbow lake is a U-shaped lake that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water.
<i>delta</i>	A river delta is a landform where the mouth of a river flows into an ocean, sea, desert, estuary, lake or another river . It is formed by sediment carried by the river being deposited in the wider mouth. The flow of water is often slower-moving there.	<i>floodplain</i>	A floodplain is an area of flat land alongside a river. The area gets covered in water when the river floods. They are naturally very fertile due to the river sediment which are deposited there.
<i>estuary</i>	The tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream.	<i>waterfall</i>	A waterfall is a place where water flows over the edge of a steep, high cliff in hills or mountains and falls into a pool below.
<i>levee</i>	An embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river. Or a ridge of sediment deposited naturally alongside a river by overflowing water.	<i>source</i>	The source of a river or stream is the original point from which the river flows.
<i>meander</i>	A winding curve or bend of a river.	<i>tributary</i>	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

Some rivers in the United Kingdom include:

River Severn River Avon River Exe River Thames

Can you name any famous rivers in the world?