



## Wild Water

### What are rivers?

A river is a moving body of water that flows from a source on high ground, across land and then into another body of water, which could be a lake, the sea or another river. The Nile and the Amazon are two of the world's longest rivers. The longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn.

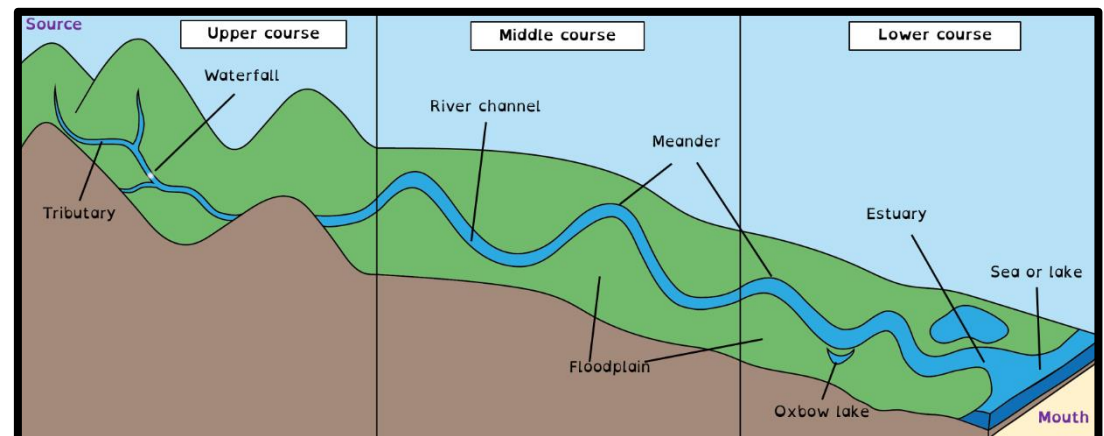
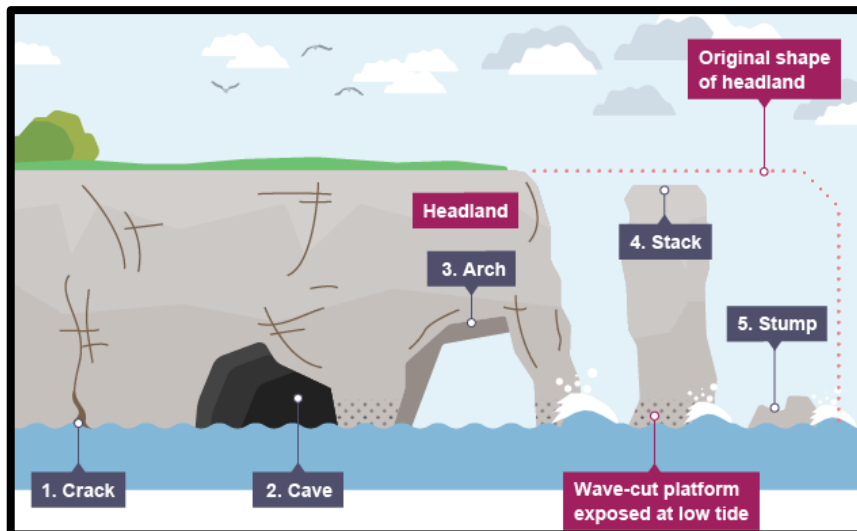
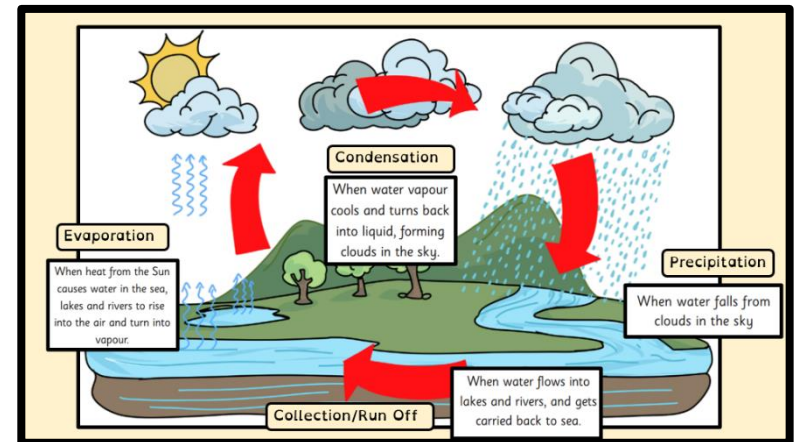
### Why are rivers and coasts important?

Throughout history, early settlements were often created by rivers (such as the Ancient Egyptians by the Nile) to ensure good access to water and because land near rivers was more fertile for growing crops. Later, rivers were used for transporting things. Today, they are used to create a renewable source of energy, known as hydroelectric power. Settlements are also found near coasts. Coastal areas became popular holiday destinations after the Victorians developed railways.

*Enquiry Questions: Where does water come from? Where does water go?*

### Key concepts:

- Place
- Physical and Human Processes
- Environmental Impact and Sustainable Development



## Key Vocabulary

<b>Source</b>	Where a river starts
<b>Mouth</b>	Where a river ends
<b>Weathering</b>	Breaking down/wearing away of rocks.
<b>Erosion</b>	Materials such as rock, soil and sand are broken down and worn away by rain, rivers, wind or waves.
<b>Deposition</b>	Where eroded materials are left behind because the river, wave or wind slows down.
<b>Channel</b>	The path or course through which a river flows.
<b>Upper/Middle/Lower Course</b>	The three sections in which a river can be split up/described.
<b>Tributary</b>	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.
<b>Meander</b>	A bend in the river created by the speed of the water, erosion and deposition.
<b>Flood Plain</b>	Flat land next to a river, where water flows when a river overtops during a flood.
<b>Estuary</b>	The point where a river meets the sea. At this point, freshwater from the river mixes with the saltwater from the sea.
<b>Oxbow Lake</b>	A curved lake created when the gap between a meander bend gets smaller and the river takes the straighter, quicker route through the land instead of flowing around the meander.
<b>Levee</b>	Natural or manmade raised bank that protects against flooding.
<b>Abrasion</b>	When rocks and other materials carried by the sea are picked up by strong waves and thrown against the coastline causing more material to be broken off.
<b>Hydraulic Action</b>	Sheer force of water crashing against the coastline causing material to be dislodged.
<b>Headland</b>	Coastal landform: a point of land usually high and often with a sheer drop that extends into a body of water.