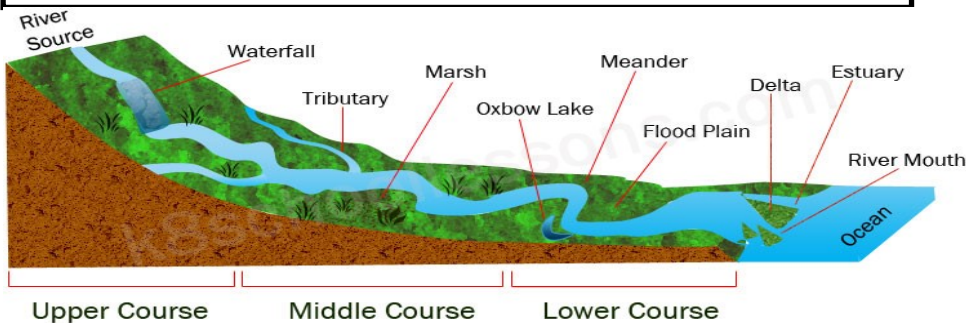


Scott Primary School - Rivers Knowledge Organiser



River formation and stages

- A river is formed by water flowing from high land to low land over a long distance and forms part of the water cycle.
- Rivers in England, at their mouth, will flow into either the: North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel or Atlantic Ocean.



Flooding

- Floods are caused when there has been large amounts of rainfall higher up in the river course which then travels down and overflows the riverbanks and rarely by melting snow or ice.
- To protect against floods we can avoid building on flood plains, use balancing lakes or flood barriers such as the Thames Flood Barrier.
- Positives of flooding: fertile soil for agriculture. Negatives: loss of homes, transport and industry.

Key Vocabulary

channel	The the deepest part of a body of water.
confluence	Joining of two or more streams
course	The route of a river or stream.
dam	A wall built across a river or stream to stop water flowing and to raise the water level behind it.
delta	A triangle of sand and soil deposited at the mouth of some large rivers
deposition	Laying down of sediment or soil along a river.
erosion	Wearing away of the earth's surface by wind or water.
estuary	The wide part of a river where it meets the sea.
floodplain	Land at the side of a river which is flooded.
fluvial	Produced by a river
levee	An embankment built to keep river water from flooding the land
lower course	The lower slower section of a river
meander	To wind back and forth.
middle course	The middle section of a river.
mouth	Where a river meets the sea or ocean.
source	Where a river starts.
tributary	A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream.
Upper course	The faster upper section of a river.

Rivers of the UK other continents

- The four longest rivers of the UK are: The River Severn (Wales and England 354 km), River Thames (England 346 km) River Trent (England 297 km) and the River Great Ouse (Bedford's River) England 230 km.
- World's major rivers: River Amazon (South America 6400 km) River Mekong (Asia 4000 km) Mississippi River (North America 6020 km) River Murray-Darling (Australasia 3,680 km) River Nile (Africa 6,695 km) River Rhine (Europe 1,232 km.)



Uses of a river

- Rivers are used for leisure (fishing, water sports) industry (factories) food (agriculture, fisheries) trade and transport, energy production (hydroelectricity) and wildlife. These uses can have positive effects (economy, protection of the river and wildlife, controlling fish population, tourism (walking routes, historical features.) The rise of ancient civilisations along river valleys resulted because of the availability of water, fertile soil, efficient transportation, and natural defence. These factors allowed these civilisations to flourish and establish themselves as major powers in their regions. Negative effects (litter, water pollution, disturbance to wildlife and habitats).
- Pollution kills water plants and animals, can carry diseases harmful to animals drinking the water and humans using the river for leisure. Rivers look unsightly when there is rubbish in them and may smell bad.