

Geography Knowledge Organiser: Key Aspects of Rivers (Landforms) Summer 2



What is a river?

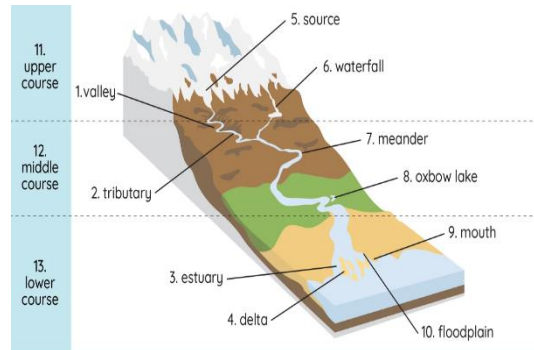
A river is a ribbon-like body of water that flows downhill from the force of gravity. A river can be wide and deep, or shallow enough for a person to wade across. A flowing body of water that is smaller than a river is called a stream, creek, or brook. Some rivers flow year-round, while others flow only during certain seasons or when there has been a lot of rain. The largest rivers can be thousands of miles long.

Concept: Key aspects of rivers including landforms

Overarching question: 'Why is our local river so important?'

Key features of a river

Rivers start at a source in the upper course meandering their way down through the middle course and ending at the mouth in the lower course.



River Ribble

The river Ribble starts at Ribblehead at the confluence (meeting point) of the Gayle Beck and Cam Beck rivers. Its mouth is between Southport and Lytham St. Annes on the Irish Sea coast. The River Ribble is 121 km in length, and flows through Settle, Clitheroe, Ribchester and Preston. Its tributaries include, the River Hodder, the River Calder and the River Darwen. The river flows through North Yorkshire and Lancashire. Both the Liverpool Canal and the Lancaster Canal are linked to the River Ribble. In Roman times it is thought that the River Ribble was referred to as the Belisama, and the remains of a Roman fort have been found at the crossing-point at Ribchester. In 1840, a large hoard of Viking silver was discovered on the banks of the River Ribble at Cuerdale.



Key Vocabulary

Source	The beginning or starting point of a river or stream
Meander	Following a winding path or course that is not straight
Tributary	A smaller river or stream flowing in to join or feed a larger river
Valley	The low stretch of land between hills or mountains often with a river running through it
Estuary	The wide part of a river before it joins the sea
Mouth	The mouth of a river is where it opens out into the sea
Floodplain	The area of land around a river where the ground lies very low and is easily flooded
Waterfall	Water falling from a height when a stream or river flows over a cliff or steep hill
Delta	A triangle shape created by sediment being left behind by the mouth of a river
Oxbow Lake	A lake formed when a bend in a river has been cut off and the river now flows straight
Condensation	A process in which water vapour in the air rises, cools and forms water droplets and clouds
Evaporation	When liquid water is heated, it turns into a gas in the air
Percolation	A process in which precipitation falls and becomes absorbed into the ground
Precipitation	A process in which water droplets in clouds come together and fall as rain, snow, sleet or hail
Transpiration	A process in which liquid water absorbed from the soil is transported up the plant and evaporates