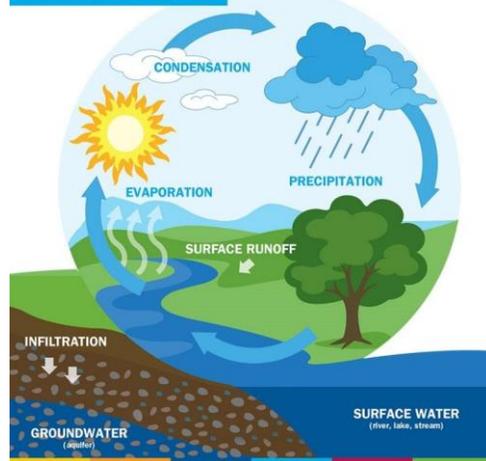


River Journey

<p>Source</p> 	<p>The start of a river is its source. It is where it begins its journey. This could be a spring on a hillside, a mountain, a lake, or a bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.</p>
<p>Waterfall</p> 	<p>An area where water flows over a vertical drop or a series of steep drops in the course of a river. Soft rock is eroded by water which leaves a hard rock ledge from which the water falls.</p>
<p>Meanders</p> 	<p>A curve in a river which forms a snake-like pattern. The river erodes sediment on the outside of the curves and drops it on the inside of curves due to water moving fastest on the outside of a turn.</p>
<p>Mouth</p> 	<p>The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake is known as the mouth of the river. Much of the river's gravel, sand, silt and clay are deposited here.</p>
<p>Delta</p> 	<p>A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea at a very slow speed, or often in still/stagnant water. The river slows and drops all the sediment that it was carrying, creating a wide, marshy area.</p>

THE WATER CYCLE



Water

Rivers

A river is the path that water takes as it flows along a channel downhill with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom. If there is lots of rain, snow or melting ice, rivers often overflow beyond the top of their banks and begin to flow onto floodplains at either side.



Image by Hel-Hama: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:River_Nile_map.svg - 2013

Key Vocabulary

evaporation	This is the process where water is heated up and rises in the form of water vapour.
condensation	The water vapour cools and turns back into a liquid, becoming clouds
precipitation	Water that falls from the sky in the form of rain, snow, sleet or hail.
run off	Water that runs off along the surface of land
Water vapour	The gas form of water as it is evaporated
estuary	mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
source	The start of a river
confluence	The place at which two rivers meet
tributary	A smaller river which joins onto the main channel of a river
mouth	Where the river meets the sea or a lake. It is the widest part of the river.
drainage basin	Land drained by a river and its tributaries
floodplain	Flat area around a river that often gets flooded

Erosion and Deposition

Erosion is when materials, like soil or rocks, are moved by water. All these materials are called sediments. Deposition is when those sediments are deposited, or dropped off, in a different place. When rivers are flowing fast, they knock bits of earth from the banks and bed of the river (its sides and bottom) and carry it downstream with them.

The Nile

The Nile begins as White Nile comes from Lake Victoria in Uganda and the Blue Nile starts in the Ethiopian Highlands. They join together in Sudan to form one river. The River Nile brings water to the Sahara Desert and, for thousands of years, it has been used to water crops (irrigation). Rivers were also important trade routes. It eventually reaches the sea but due to the heat, much of it evaporates before it gets there. It also splits into many smaller rivers forming a delta.

World's Longest Rivers

	Nile – 6695km (Africa)
	Amazon – 6516km (South America)
	Yangtze – 6380km (Asia)
	Mississippi/Missouri – 5969km (North America.)
	Murray/Darling – 3672km (Australia)