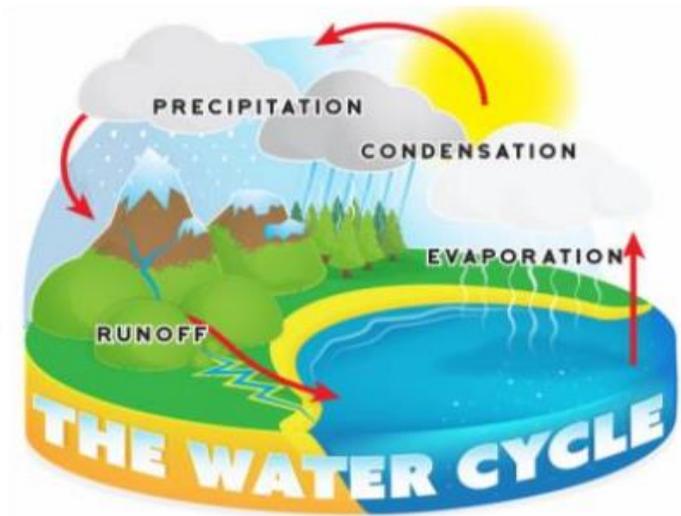


UU Knowledge Organiser: Our Watery World 2026

The Water Cycle is a journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again.

1. Energy from the sun, heats up the water in our rivers, lakes and oceans.
2. Water **evaporates** into the air, turning into a gas called **water vapour**.
3. The water vapour rises up into the sky where it cools.
4. The water vapour turns back into a liquid, forming clouds. This process is called **condensation**.
5. Eventually the water droplets in the clouds become too heavy for the air to hold them.
6. They fall back down to Earth as rain, snow, hail or sleet, a process known as **precipitation**.
7. The fallen precipitation is then collected in rivers that flow to the sea. This is called **runoff**.
8. The water cycle then begins again as the sun heats the water.



This is the River Nile in Africa. It is the longest river in the world, covering 6650km



This is the River Severn. It is the longest river in the UK, covering 354km.

Fun Facts

- * Rivers run through every continent in the world except Antarctica.
- * Most cities are located near rivers for many reasons including fishing, transport, waste disposal and communication.

What other facts can you research about rivers?

Wonderful Websites

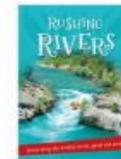
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkkg87h/articles/z3wpp39>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks1-ks2-the-water-cycle/zbcmxy>

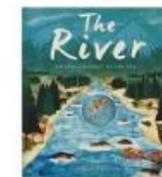
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWb4KIM2vts>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/z7w8pg8>

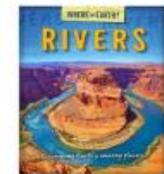
Brilliant Books



It's All About... Rushing Rivers: Everything You Want to Know about Rivers Great and Small in One Amazing Book by Kingfisher Books



The River: An Epic Journey to the Sea by Patricia Hegarty and Hanako Cuirow



Rivers (The Where on Earth? Book of) by Susie Brooks

Important Topic Vocabulary

deposition	The process where material being transported by a river is put down.
erosion	The process that wears away the river bed and banks.
lake	A large area of water surrounded by land
meander	A winding curve or bend in a river.
river	A large amount of fresh water flowing continuously in a long line across land.
source	The beginning of a stream of water.
stream	A small body of flowing water.
tributary	Where one river meets another and merge together.
Water Cycle	The continuous recycling process of water.

Our key questions are:

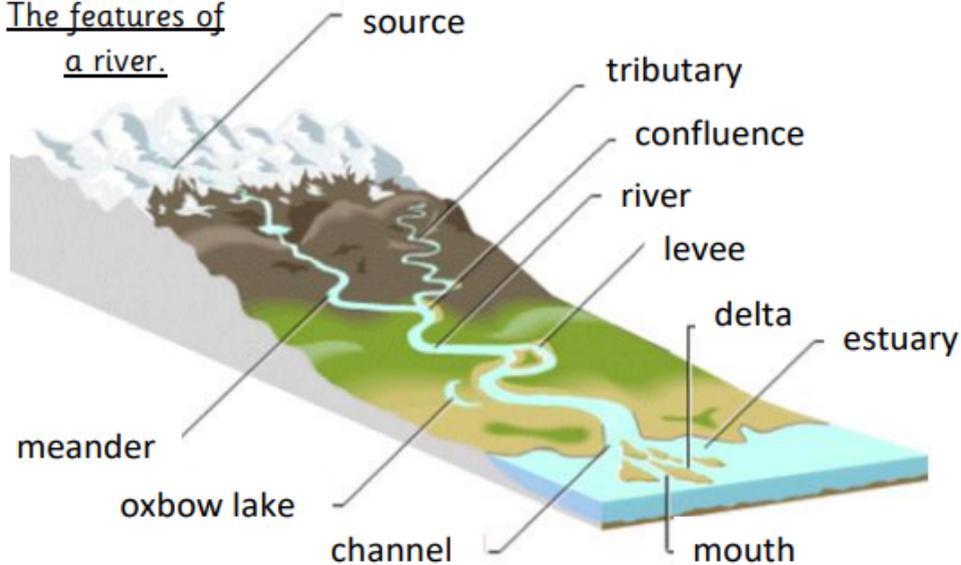
- What is the water cycle?
- What are the features of a river?
- What are the names of some of the world's rivers?
- What are our local rivers called?
- What can we learn about the River Severn?
- How do we use water?
- What are the impacts of floods and droughts?
- How can we keep safe near water?

Our vertical Driver: The Environment

Our school value: Respect

Our British Value: Mutual respect

The features of a river.



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** 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 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.