



Water World—Geography

Pentecost 1

The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

The Middle Course

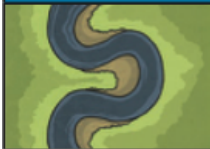
Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

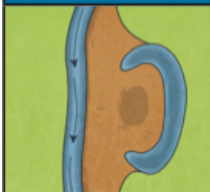
Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.

Meander - a curve in the river



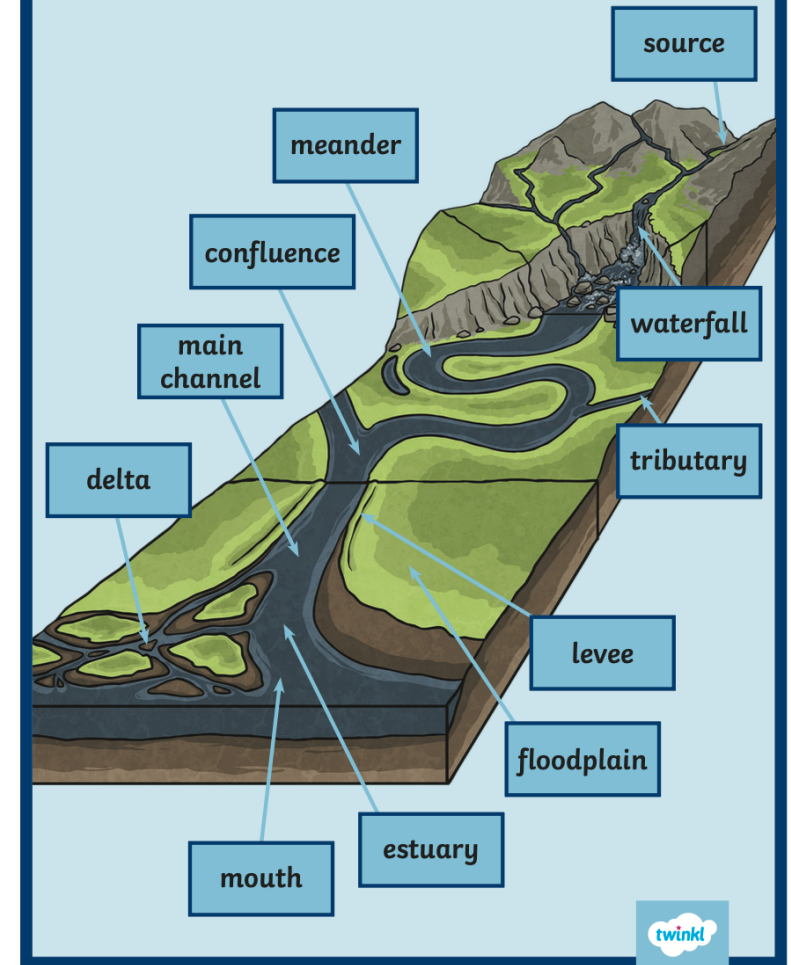
Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake

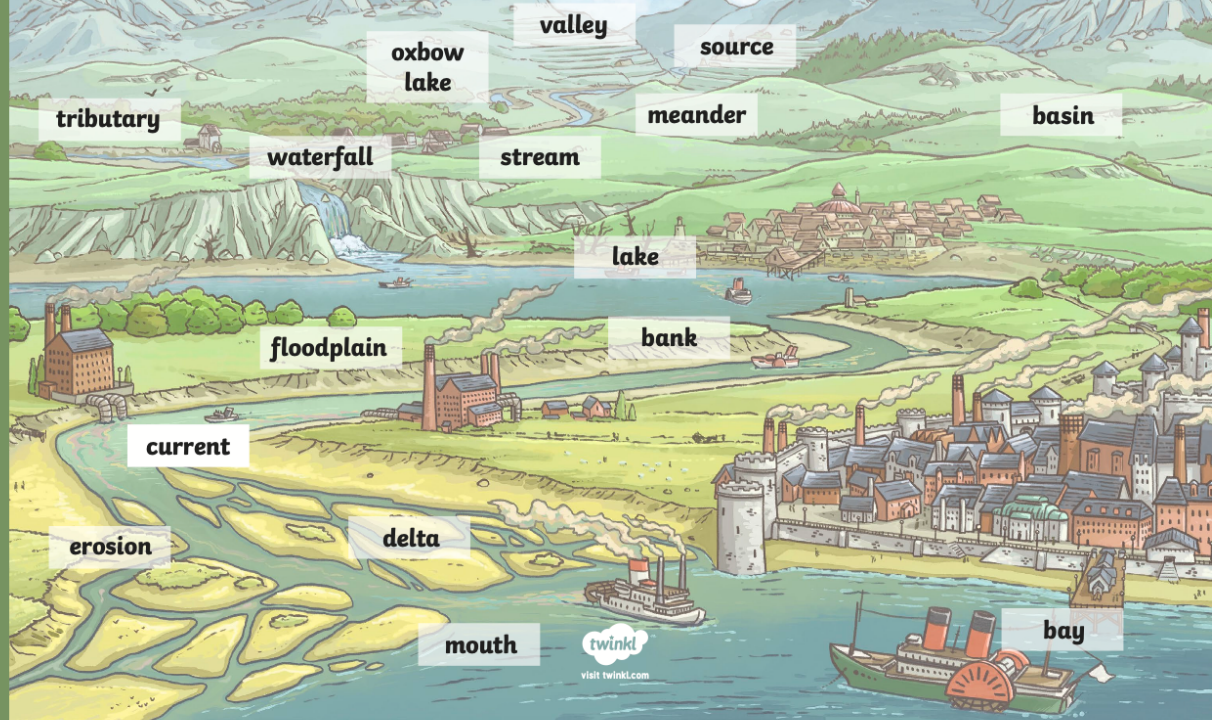


As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.

River Diagram



Features of a River



Glossary

Channel – the course in the ground that a river or water flows through.

Erosion – rocks and other river materials are picked up by the water and moved to another place along the river.



Mouth – the point where a river joins the sea.

Source – the place where a river begins.

Tributaries – rivers that join up with another river.

Valley – a long ditch in the Earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains.



How Do We Use Rivers?

Leisure e.g. fishing	+	Controlled population of fish
	-	May leave litter and pollute the water
Industry e.g. factories	+	Sections of rivers maintained
	-	Chemicals pollute the water and habitats
Tourism e.g. walking routes	+	Conservation and education about local wildlife
	-	Too many people near wildlife habitats