



# How does a river change on its course to the sea?

Key vocabulary	
source	Where a river starts
meander	When a river winds on its course.
tributary	Where a smaller river flows into a bigger one.
confluence	Where two rivers meet.
river channel	What the river flows in
drainage basin	The area of land that empties its water into a river
delta	A large, silty area where the river splits into many, different slow-flowing channels that have muddy banks
mouth	Where the river meets the sea.
irrigation	The watering of land to make it ready for agriculture

Rivers in the UK:



Skills - We are geographers!	
1. Use the eight points of a compass.	
2. Use four figure grid references.	
3. Use map symbols and keys effectively.	

## Key knowledge:

1. Rivers are split into three courses:

### Upper Course:

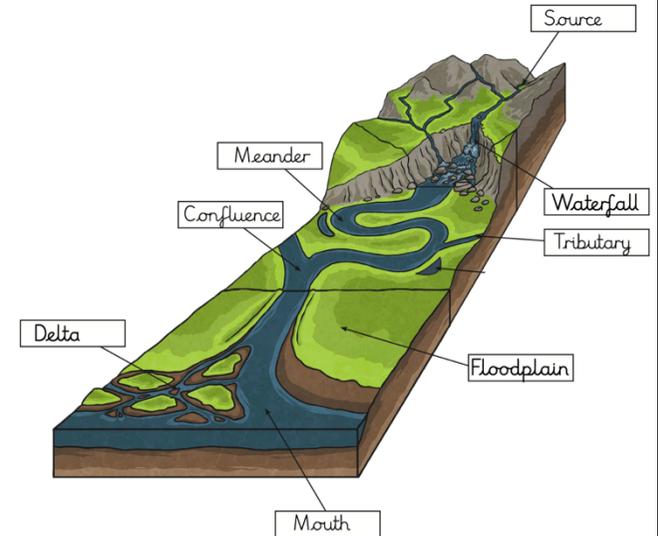
The source of a river is often in hills/ mountains where rain falls. It starts narrow and quickly travels downhill, cutting through rocks. You may see waterfalls.

### Middle Course:

Land is flatter and often river is flowing through a valley. The river becomes slower and wider and meanders. The river drops its rocks, sand and silt so sometimes sand bars or islands are formed.

### Lower Course:

At the mouth of the river, it flows slowly and land is flat. Often, there's a river delta.



2. Key features of the river (picture)

3. Over time the river **erodes** (wears away) the riverbank and bed. As it cuts through the land, it's banks become higher. As the flow of water slows, the river drips rocks, sand and silt. This builds up the bank on one side so the river meanders. This is called **deposition**.

4. The River Danube starts in Germany in the Black Forest Mountains. It Flows through Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and into the Black Sea. It is 2,850km long.

5. The River Avon: Starts in the village of Acton Turville and flows through Gloucester and Wiltshire through to Somerset. It is 134 km long.