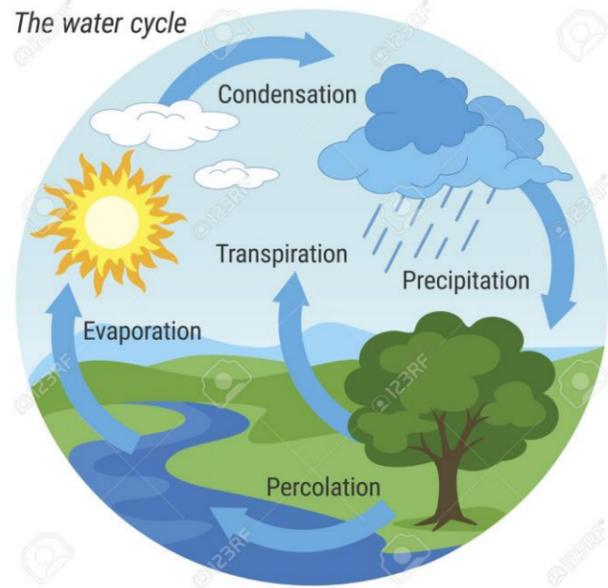




RIVERS AND COASTS

The Water Cycle



The Water Cycle

The water cycle is the journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again. It follows a cycle of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



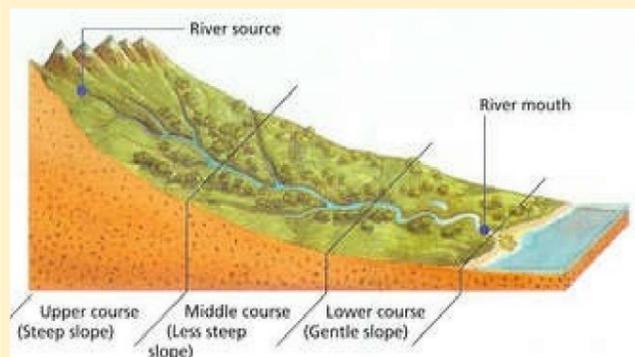
Key Water Cycle Vocabulary

Evaporation	Is the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas. The change of state is due to an increase in temperature.
Condensation	The process of water vapour in the atmosphere cools and changes into liquid water. This is the result of hot air becoming cool.
Precipitation	Water that falls from the clouds towards the ground e.g. rain, hail, sleet or snow.
Collection	Precipitation is collected in bodies of water, such as rivers, lakes and oceans.
Runoff	Is precipitation that did not get absorbed into the soil and makes its way from the surface into places where water collects.

A River's Journey

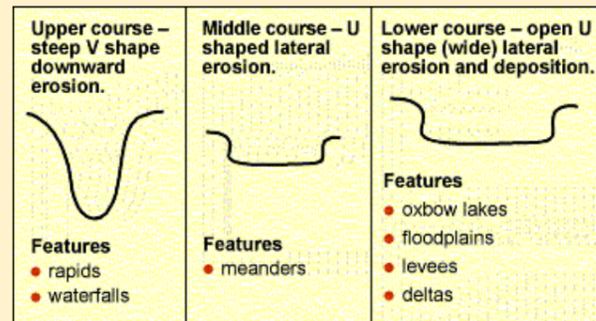
The River Channel

All rivers tend to follow the same pattern: as the flow from the source of the mouth, they start of narrow and end up wider; they start of straight and end up meandering.



The River Valley

The land near the source is high and steep. Heading towards the mouth the land gets lower and flatter. The narrow V-shaped valleys open out, eventually becoming wide, flat flood plains.



Key River Vocabulary

Erosion	The wearing away of rock, stones and soil by rivers, waves, wind, or glaciers.
Source	Where the river/stream begins. This is usually high up.
Tributary	Is a stream or river that flows into a larger river or lake.
Confluence	The point at which two rivers or streams join.
Meander	A winding curve or bend in a river. They are typical of the middle and lower course of a river.
Floodplain	Is the flat land of the river valley close to the river banks. It is usually found in the lower course of a river.
Delta	An area of low flatland where a river divides into several smaller rivers before flowing into the sea.
Estuary	Occurs near or at the mouth of a river, where the tide meets the current and the fresh and salt waters mix.
Mouth	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river or the ocean.