



Geography

Year: 4

Unit 3: Rivers



Unit Specific Vocabulary:

River	A flow of fresh water across the land into a lake, sea or ocean.
Source	The start of a river.
Mouth	The end of a river, where it enters a lake, sea or ocean.
Erosion	The wearing away of the land by forces such as water, wind and ice.
Transportation	The movement of sediment (material).
Sediment	Natural material such as sand, rocks and silt that is carried and deposited by a river— a <i>river's load</i> .
Deposition	The dropping of sediment or a <i>river's load</i> .
Meander	A meander is a bend in a river channel.
Landform	A feature of the Earth's surface that is part of the land. Mountains, hills and valleys are all types of landforms.
Tributary	A smaller river that flows into a larger river.
Oxbow Lake	A curved lake formed from a bend in the river where the main stream has cut across the narrow end and no longer flows around the loop of the bend.
V-shaped valley	Formed by erosion from a river or stream over time. It is called a V-shaped valley as the shape of the valley looks like the letter "V".
Interlocking Spur	As the river erodes the landscape in the upper course, it winds and bends to avoid areas of hard rock. This creates interlocking spurs , which look a bit like the interlocking parts of a zip.

The River's Course

- 1 – Source
- 2 – Interlocking spur
- 3 – V-shaped valley
- 4 – Waterfall
- 5 – River channel (widens in middle course)
- 6 – Meander (erosion on outside of bend)
- 7 – Meander (deposition on inside of bend)
- 8 – Oxbow lake
- 9 – Rich, fertile land either side of the river
- 10 – Mouth



Rivers are extremely important as they provide — habitats to wildlife; water for everyday use; transport for goods and people; water for crops and farming; leisure activities and help to supply energy like electricity.

Rivers are often polluted by people, through agriculture, industry and oil spills, which all have a devastating impact on the environment.

Links to: Science—Water Cycle

Year 2 – The UK, Continents, Oceans
Year 3 – Mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes
Year 3 – Water, weather and climate

Key Facts

Famous Rivers from around the World

River Nile (Africa) - Longest river in Africa

The **mouth** of the River Nile flows into the **Mediterranean Sea**.

It flows through: Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eritrea.

Amazon River (South America) - Largest river in the world—4000 miles long

The **source** of the Amazon River is the **Andes Mountains of Peru**.

The **mouth** of the Amazon – The **Atlantic Ocean**

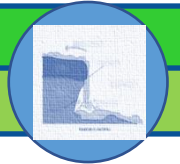
Volga River - longest river in Europe — it mainly runs through Russia

The **source** of the Volga River is the **Valdai Hills**.

The **mouth** of the Volga flows into – The **Caspian Sea**

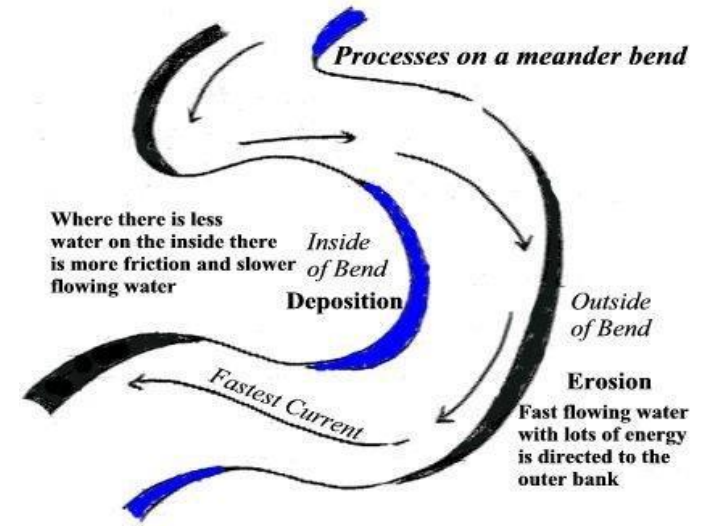
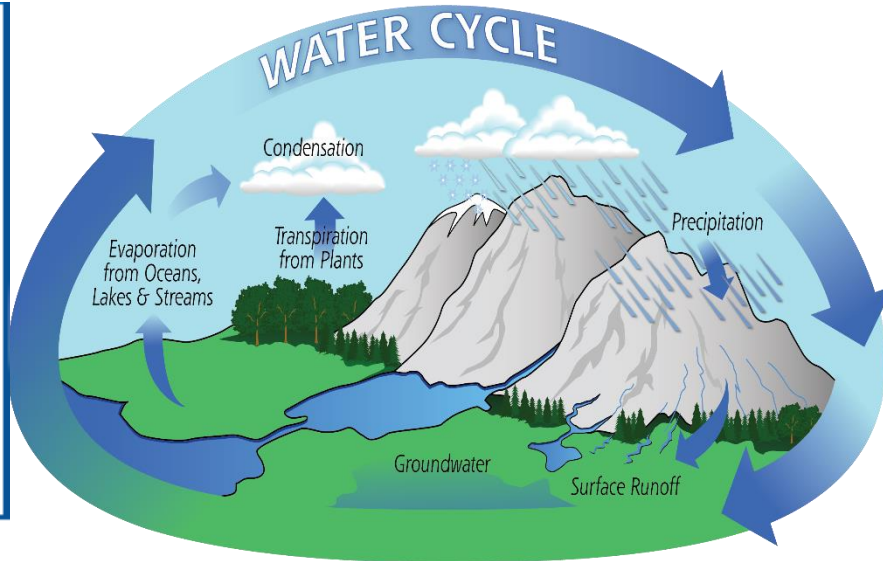
Colorado River (North America) - runs through 7 states—Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, through the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and California.

The **mouth**—The **Gulf of California**



Key Facts:

Water Cycle: The water cycle is the way in which water moves around the world; rivers are an important part of this cycle.



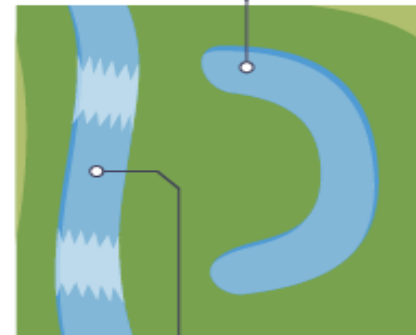
How an oxbow lake is formed:



Erosion makes the neck narrow



During floods river takes shortest course through the neck



Cut off / abandoned meander or Oxbow lake

New straighter river course

Areas of deposition
 Areas of erosion