

The Knowledge

Supporting the National Curriculum



Knowing More

Remembering More

Learning More

Mountains and Rivers



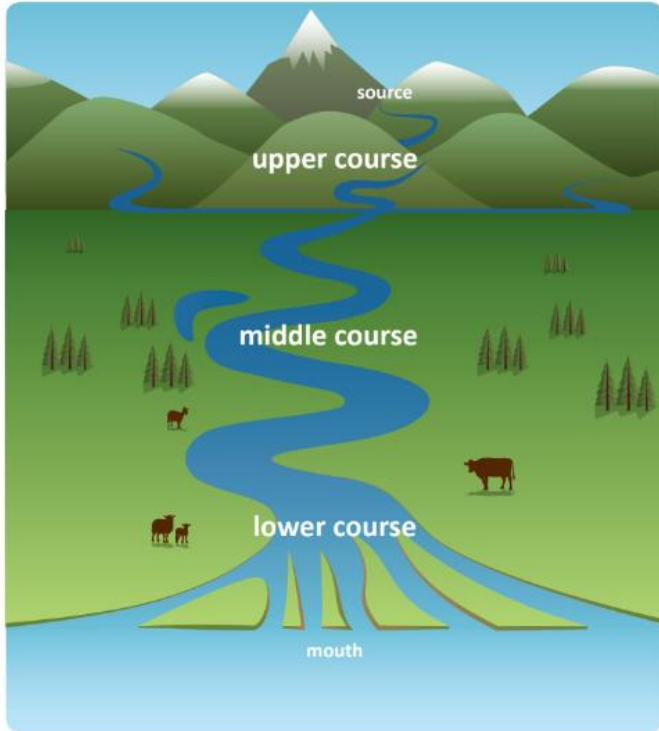
ARDLEIGH GREEN
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 4
Geography

Rivers

A river is a body of water that flows downhill, usually to the sea.

The journey of a river



The upper course of a river is narrow. Water flows quickly over the riverbed, carrying rocks that erode the land and create steep-sided, V-shaped valleys.

The middle course of a river grows wider and deeper as the land becomes flatter. Bends called meanders form.

The lower course is the widest part of a river. The land is flat, and the water flows into the sea at the river's mouth.

Changing Landscapes

Rivers, seas and oceans transform a landscape through erosion, deposition and transportation.

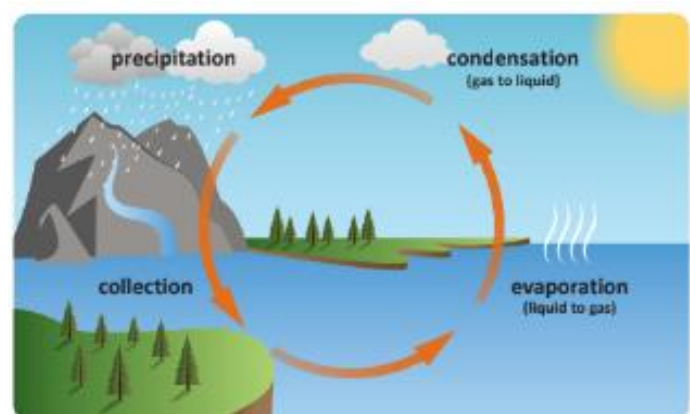
Erosion: the wearing away and removal of rock and soil by means of wind or water.

Transportation: when rocks and soil that have been dislodged and worn away by erosion are transported in flowing water.

Deposition: happens when flowing water slows down. Eroded rock and soil that have been transported are left behind.

The Water Cycle

The journey water takes as it travels from rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans into the sky and back down to land. Water changes state as it goes around the cycle.



Mountains

A mountain is a large, raised part of the Earth's surface. A mountain's highest point is called its peak or summit. Mountains are at least 610m in height. A mountain range is a chain of mountains that are close together. They are usually arranged in a line connected by ridges.

There are different types of mountains including: Fold, volcanic, fault-block, dome and plateau.



Himalayas mountain range

Types of Mountain

Fold mountains form when tectonic plates collide with each other. One plate is pushed down while the other is pushed up and compressed, forming folds.



Volcanic mountains are formed when lava, ash and gases erupt and then cool. These types of mountain often has steep, symmetrical slopes.



Fault-block mountains form at plate boundaries. The earth on one side of the boundary is forced up, and the other side collapses.



Dome mountains are the result of when magma is pushed upwards against the Earth's crust. Instead of erupting through the crust, the magma cools and hardens.



Plateau mountains are formed when land is lifted by magma below the Earth's crust. Large, flat areas of land are forced upwards, creating a plateau.



Key Vocabulary

Altitude: The height of an object or point above sea level.

Altitudinal zone: One layer out of many that naturally occur in mountainous regions to form a particular habitat.

Evaporation: The process of a liquid heating up and changing state into a gas or vapour.

Condensation: The process of a gas or vapour cooling down and changing state into a liquid.

Precipitation: Any kind of weather condition where something's falling from the sky

Collection: The process of water gathering in oceans, rivers, lakes and streams after falling as precipitation.

Contaminate: The process of making something poisonous or less pure.

Sediment: Very small pieces of sand, soil and stone that form through the process of erosion.

Test Yourself

- What is a river?
- How many stages of the river are there?
- What happens in each of these stages?
- How can rivers, seas and oceans change landscapes over time?
- What is a mountain?
- What are the different types of mountains?
- What are the different stages of the water cycle?
- How do humans change the environment?
- How do floods affect people and the environment?