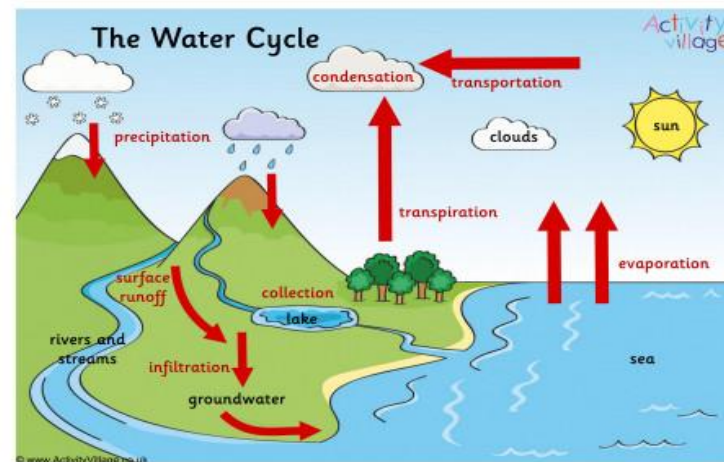


Topic Fact Sheet – Rivers and Coasts

Key Terms

Abrasion	When rocks carried by the sea are thrown against the coastline, causing more material to be broken off.
Channel	The course in the ground that a river or water flows through.
Condensation	The process of changing from gas to liquid.
Deposition	When rocks and other materials that have been eroded are dropped off further along the river.
Discharge	The amount of water flowing along a river per second.
Estuary	An area at the end of a river, which is in between land and ocean.
Erosion	The wearing away of rocks and soil by forces such as water, wind and ice.
Evaporation	The process of changing from liquid to a vapor (gas).
Floodplain	A flat area of land next to a river or stream that is prone to flooding.
Hydraulic erosion	The sheer force of water crashing against the coastline, causing material to become dislodged and carried away.
Levee	A bank built along a river to prevent flooding.
Meander	A bend in a river channel.

The water cycle is a key part in the formation of rivers.



The Upper Course

The part of the river closest to the **source**, where the land is high and mountainous, and the river has a steep gradient. The river here flows quickly and the **channel** runs through **valleys**.



The Middle Course

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



The Lower Course

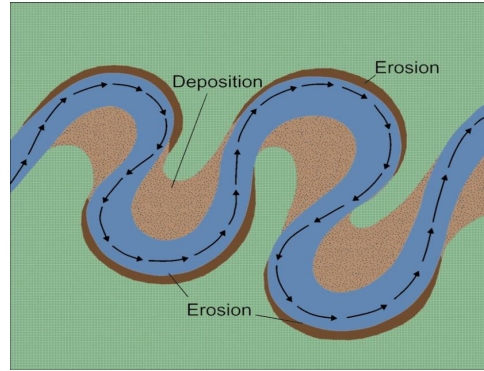
Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried.



Topic Fact Sheet – Rivers and Coasts

Key Terms

Mouth	The point where a river joins the sea.
Precipitation	Water that falls to the earth as hail. Mist, rain, sleet or snow.
Source	The starting point of a river.
Transpiration	The process by which plants give off water vapour through openings in their leaves.
Tributary	Smaller rivers or streams that join a bigger river.
Valley	A long ditch in the earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains.
Weathering	The process of wearing away rocks by the weather



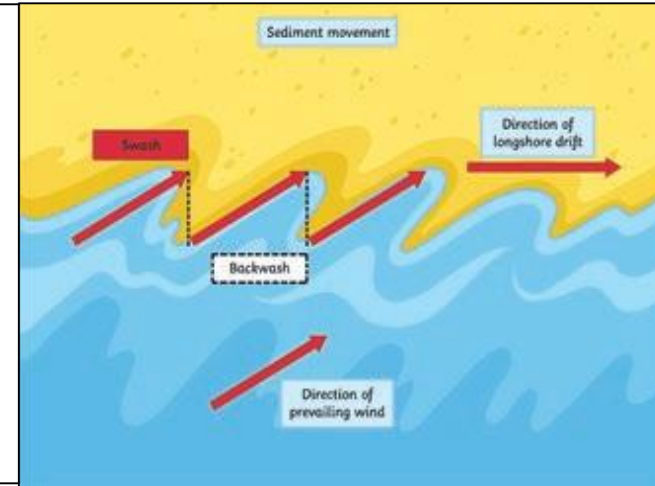
Meanders

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.

Longshore drift

Material is moved along the coast:

- waves travel in the same direction as the wind and hit the coast at an angle (swash)
- material is carried back down the beach at a right angle (backwash)
- material zig-zags along the coast



Arches, Stacks and Stumps

Softer or weak sections of the rock are **eroded** more easily.

1. Over time, waves cause cracks to open forming caves.
2. If a cave forms in a headland, it may break through causing an arch to form.
3. The top of the arch can weaken and may collapse into the sea leaving a stack.

Over time, the stack will **erode** leaving a small stump of rock

