

# Rivers of the World



# What Can You Remember?

**What is the source?**

The source is the place where a river starts.

**What is the mouth?**

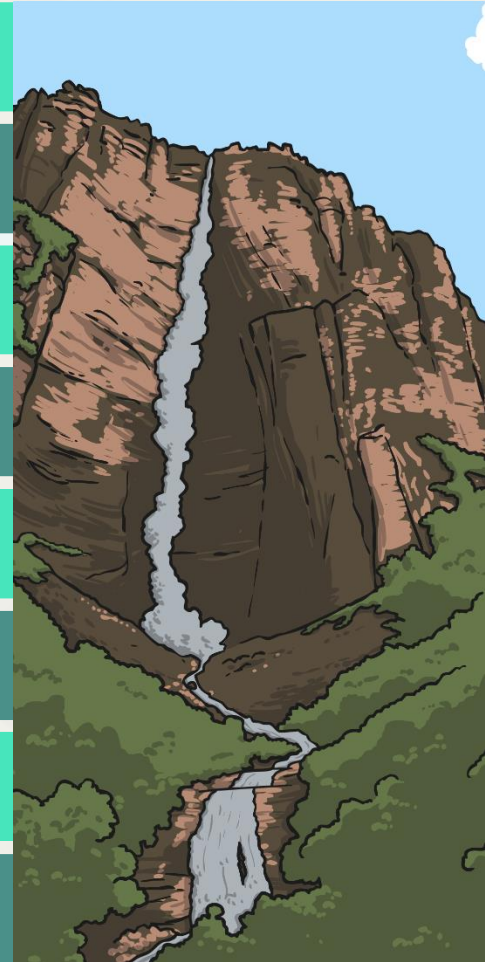
The mouth is where a river flows into the sea.

**Where do most rivers start?**

Most rivers start in high ground or in the mountains.

**Do all rivers flow directly into the sea?**

No – some flow into other rivers or into lakes.





# Joining Together

Many rivers join up with the River Thames. They are called tributaries.



# Where Do I Start and Where Do I Go?



## Activity

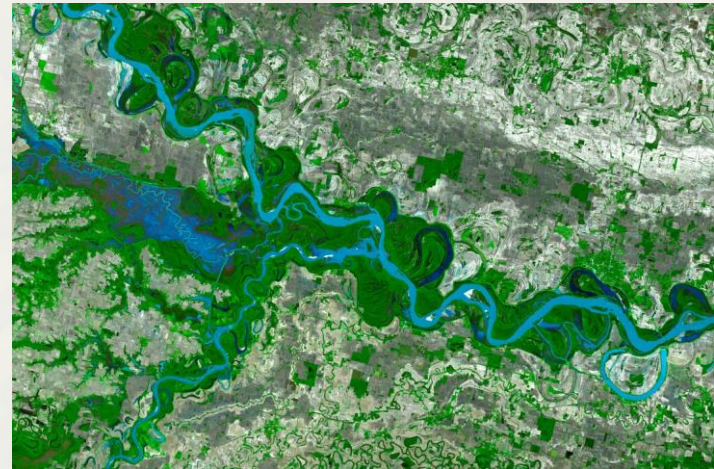
Now it's your turn to find out about some of the world's great rivers.

For each river, find out:

- Where it starts (the source)
- Where it ends (the mouth)
- Where it passes through (course)

Can you identify any of its tributaries?

You will need to use an atlas or the internet (Google Maps) to help you find out the information of where these rivers are found.





# Task 2

River	Source – Country/State/Area	Mouth	Countries on its course	Length (km)	Tributaries
Amazon					
Congo					
Ganges					
Indus					
Loire					
Mississippi					
Murray					
Nile					
Ob					
Yangtze					

# Task 2 Answers

River	Source – Country/State/Area	Mouth	Countries on its course	Length (km)	Tributaries
Amazon	Colombia and Peru	Atlantic Ocean	Brazil, Colombia, Peru	6,437	Rio Negro, Putumayo, Ucayali, Purus, Madeira, Xingu
Congo	Lakes bordering Congo–Kinshasa, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Zambia	Atlantic Ocean	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo–Kinshasa, Gabon, Congo–Brazzaville, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia	4,700	Kwa–Kassai, Fimi, Tshuapa, Lomami
Ganges	Himalayas	Ganges Delta, Bay of Bengal	India, Bangladesh	2,525	Tamsa, Gomti, Ghaghara, Son, Kosi
Indus	Himalayas	Arabian Sea	Pakistan, India, China	3,200	Zanskar, Chenab, Shyok, Gomal, Kurram
Loire	Central France	Atlantic Ocean	France	1,012	Allier, Cher, Indre, Vienne, Sevre Nantaise, Maine, Nievre, Erdre
Mississippi	Lake Itasca, MN, USA	Gulf of Mexico	USA	3,734	St. Croix, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, White River, Red River
Murray	Australian Alps	Indian Ocean/ Southern Ocean	Australia	2,508	Mitta Mitta, Loddon, Swampy Plains, Murrumbidgee, Darling
Nile	Uganda	Mediterranean Sea	Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Uganda, Congo–Kinshasa, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Eritrea	6,853	White Nile, Blue Nile, Atbara River
Ob	Southern Russia, close to the borders with Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia	Gulf of Ob, Kara Sea	Russia	3,650	Katun, Anuy, Irtysh, Berd, Inga, Tom, Kazim
Yangtze	Tibet, western China	East China Sea	China	6,300	Yalong, Min, Tuo, Jailing, Han, Wu, Yuan, Zi, Xiang, Gan, Huangpu

# Task 3: Features of a River





# The Life of a River

## Activity

Tell your partner the life story of a river.

- Where might it be born?
- What kinds of places and events might it see along its life journey?
- Where does its life end?

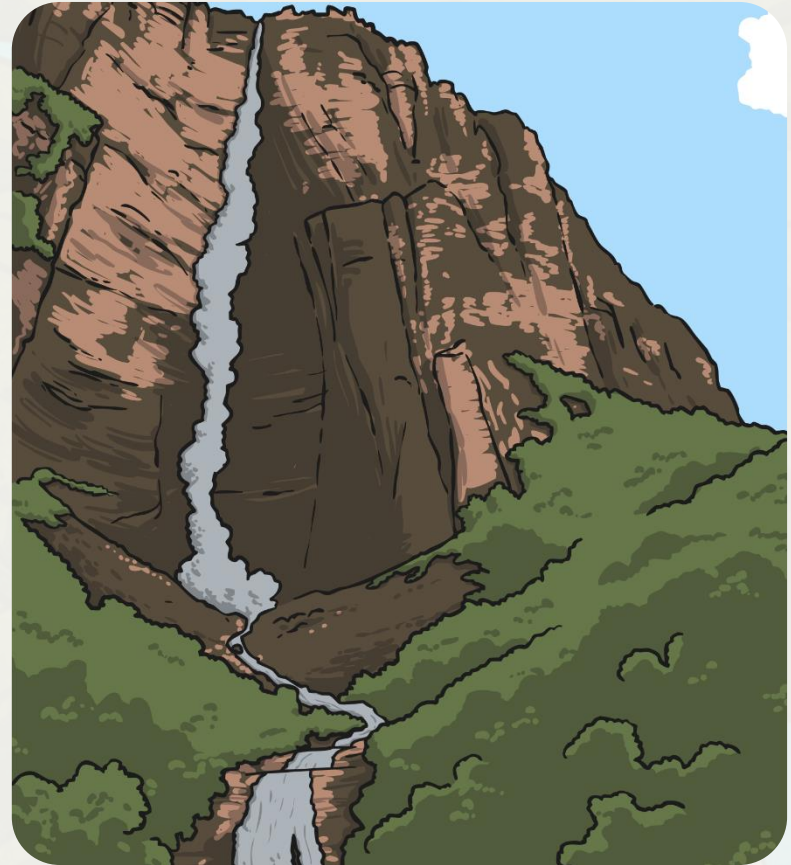




# The Life of a River

Do you know what any of these words mean?

- upper course
- middle course
- lower course
- valley
- channel
- waterfall
- rapids
- gorge
- meander
- tributary
- confluence
- floodplain
- levee
- delta
- estuary



# The Life of a River

Rivers can be divided into three stages:

## The Upper Course

Rain falling in highland areas flows downwards and collects in channels, forming a stream. As the stream continues to run downhill, it is joined by other streams and increases in size and speed. The point where two rivers join is called a confluence.

## The Middle Course

As a river reaches its middle course, the fast flowing water causes erosion, which makes it deeper and wider. The river erodes left and right, forming horse-shoe like loops called meanders.

## The Lower Course

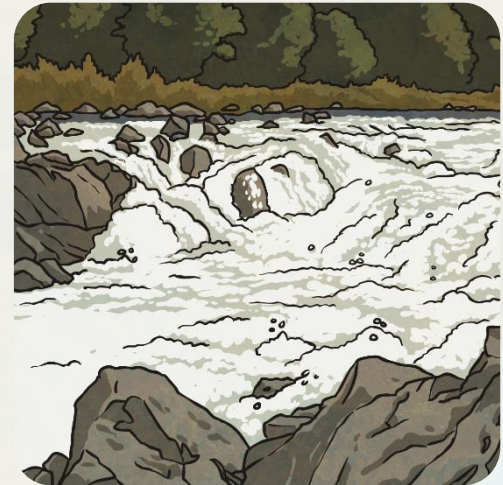
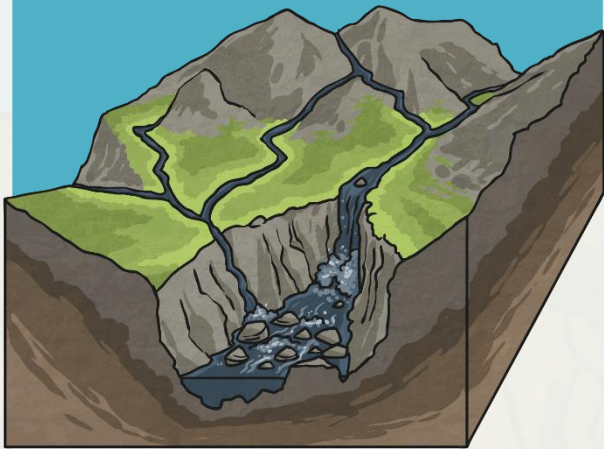
In the lower course, a river is in flatland and flows slowly. The force of the water is lower than in the other stages, so the river deposits all the bits of eroded land it has been carrying with it.



# The Upper Course

What is the river like along its upper course?

- Speed
- Features
- Valley shape
- Channel width

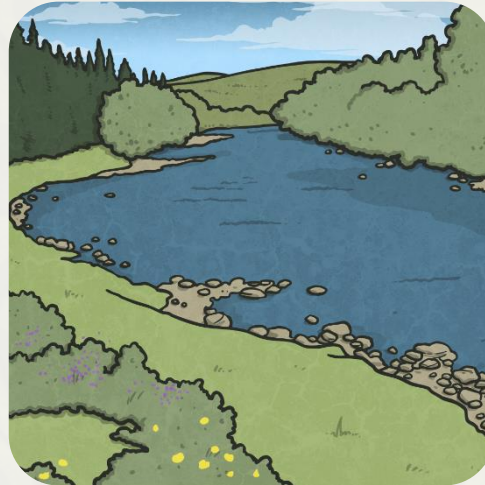
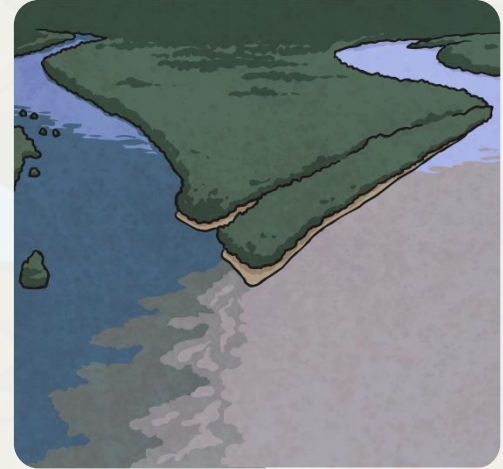




# The Middle Course

What is the river like along its middle course?

- Speed
- Features
- Valley shape
- Channel width

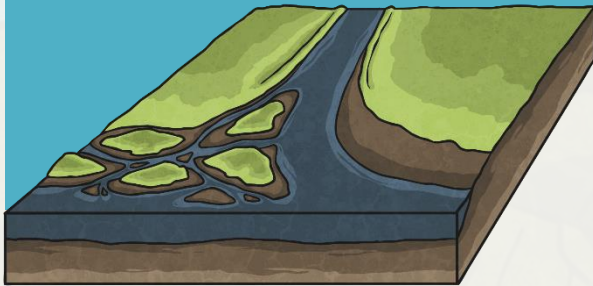




# The Lower Course

What is the river like along its lower course?

- Speed
- Features
- Valley shape
- Channel width



# Task 3: River Features

## Activity

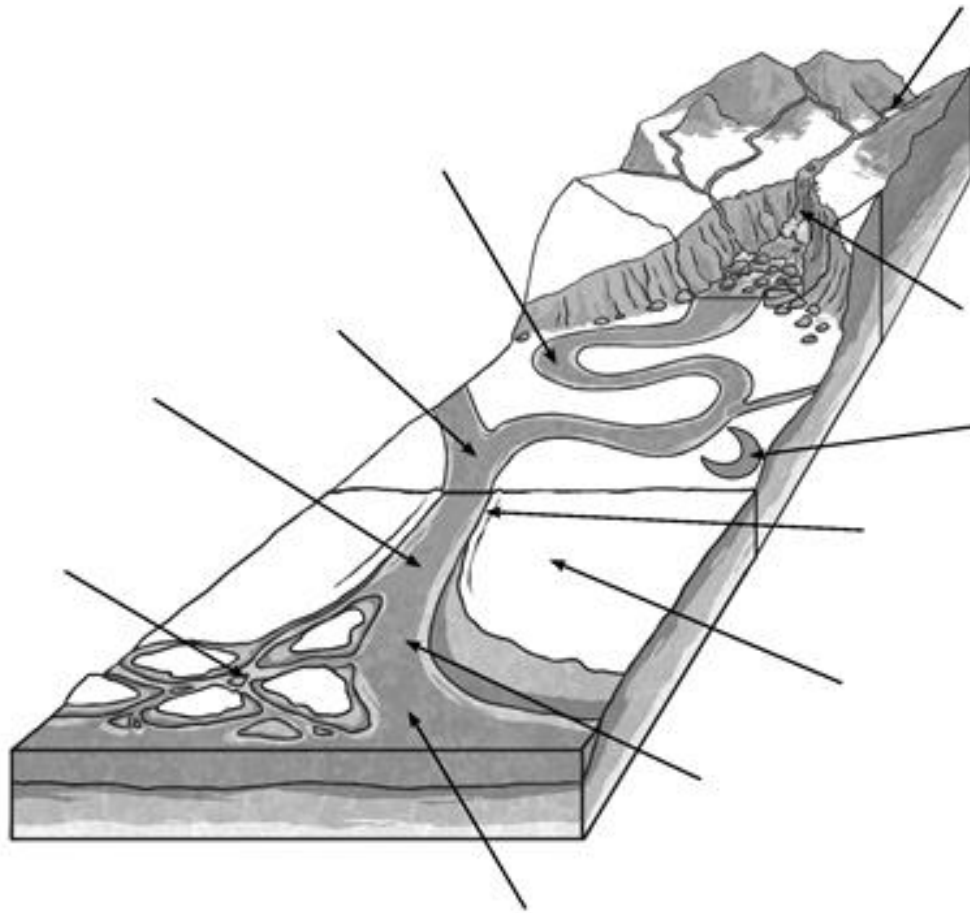
Use the features of rivers vocabulary to label the river system.

**Challenge:** can you describe the river during the upper, middle and lower courses? How does it change?





Use the word bank at the bottom of the page to identify each of the parts of the river system.



channel	confluence	delta	estuary	floodplain	levee
meander	mouth	oxbow lake	source	waterfall	

# Plenary: What's the River like there?

Where along a river's course might you find each feature?

Some words might go in more than one column!

Upper Course	Middle Course	Lower Course

- valley
- waterfall
- gorge
- tributary
- floodplain
- delta
- channel
- rapids
- meander
- confluence
- levee
- estuary



# Plenary Answers: What's the River like there?

Where along a river's course might you find each feature?

Some words might go in more than one column!

Upper Course	Middle Course	Lower Course
valley channel waterfall rapids gorge tributary confluence	valley channel tributary confluence meander	valley channel floodplain levee delta estuary

- valley
- waterfall
- gorge
- tributary
- floodplain
- delta
- channel
- rapids
- meander
- confluence
- levee
- estuary