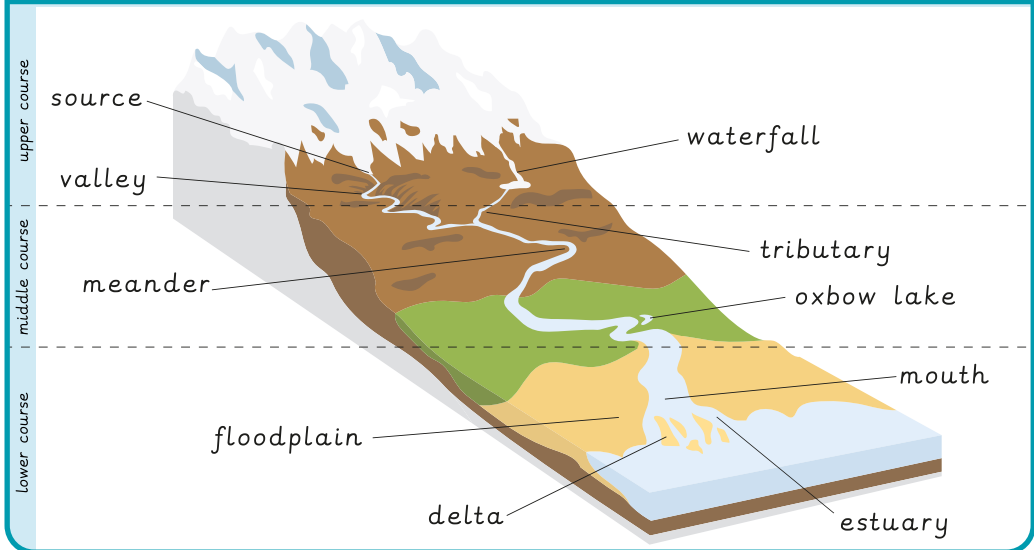


# What are rivers and how are they used?

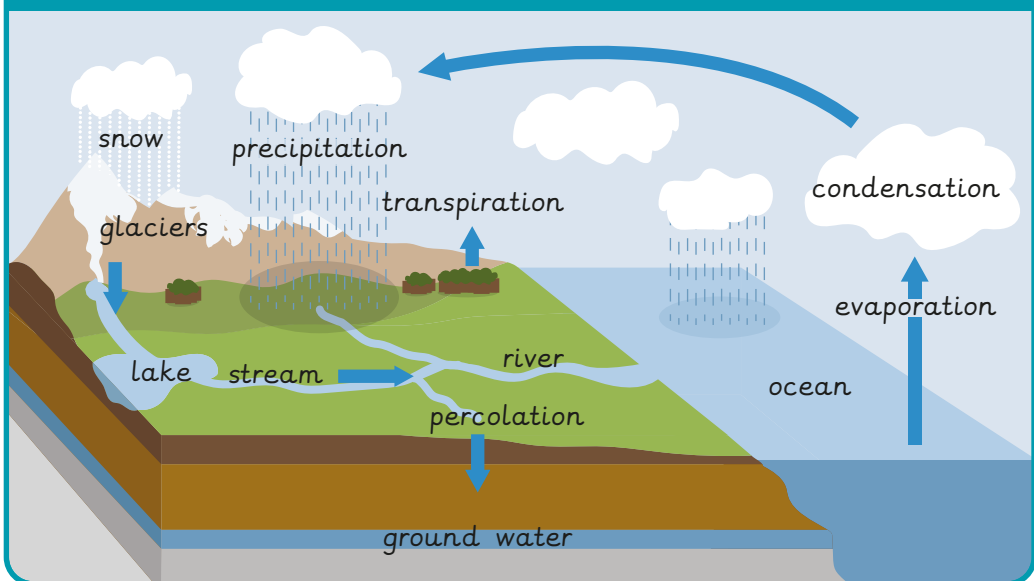
## River courses and features



## How are rivers used?

- Rivers are important habitats for plants and animals.
- They provide a supply of food and drink for humans and animals.
- Rivers can help crops grow by dispersing nutrients and making soil more fertile.
- Rivers contain valuable minerals such as gold and diamonds which people can find and sell.
- They offer transport routes for people and goods.
- Rivers can be used for leisure activities such as boating, swimming, fishing and many other fun activities.
- Many settlements and communities are built along rivers.
- Some people live on rivers in houseboats.
- Water from rivers can be used for irrigation on farmland.
- Renewable energy, called hydroelectric power, can be generated by moving water.

## The water cycle



## What are rivers and how are they used?

evaporation	The process in which warm water turns from a liquid to a gas in the air (water vapour).
condensation	The process in which water vapour rises in the air, cools down and turns into small water droplets.
precipitation	The process in which water falls from clouds to the ground, in the form of rain, sleet, snow or hail.
delta	A wide area near where a river meets the sea which features a build-up of sand and sediment.
estuary	The area where fresh water from a river meets salt water from the sea.
floodplain	Areas of flat land on either side of a river that can become flooded if the river gets too full.
meander	A bend or curve in a river.
oxbow lake	A bend in a river that has been separated from the main river.
river mouth	The place where a river flows into the sea.
source	The place where a river starts.
tributary	A stream that flows into a larger stream or river.
valley	An area of low land between two hills or mountains, usually with a river running through it.



Longest river in the UK:  
The River Severn.

Longest river in the world:  
The River Nile, Africa

