

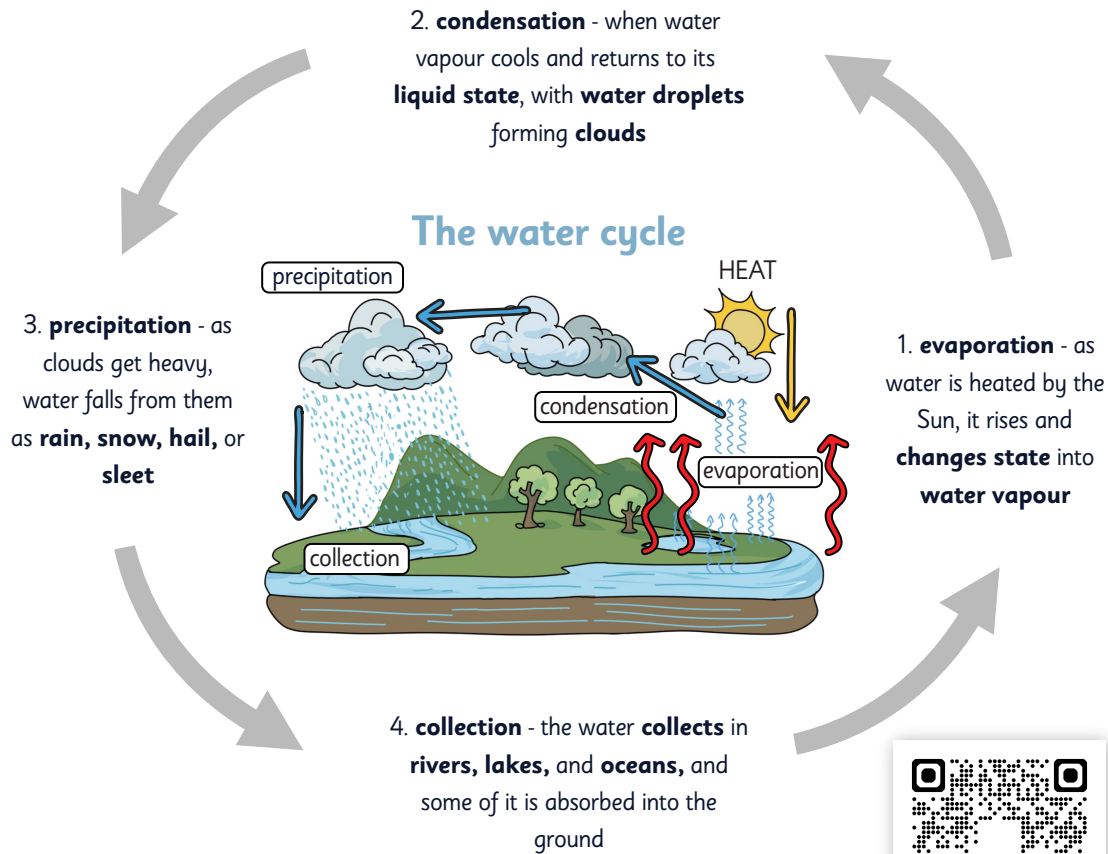
Rivers

Year 5

Knowledge organiser

The water cycle

The **water cycle** describes how water moves around our planet.



The **water cycle** is a **continuous process** that keeps rivers moving by replacing the water that flows away.

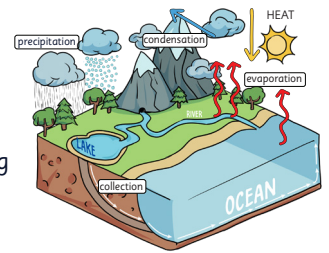
Watch this video to find out more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKvVTBRtUQ8&feature=youtu.be>

How does the water cycle keep rivers flowing?

Precipitation from rain or melting snow continually adds water to rivers, lakes and oceans.

Some water **flows** over the land into **streams** and **rivers**, forming small **channels** where the land has been worn away by **erosion**.

Other water **absorbs** into the ground, travelling through soil and rock until it emerges in springs that feed rivers.



This **movement** means rivers are constantly supplied with **fresh water**, which flows from their **source** to their **mouth**.

Key vocabulary



absorb



analyse



collect



compare



conclude



channel



cycle



data



evaluate



flow



investigate



measure



observe



plan



present



record



source



steam

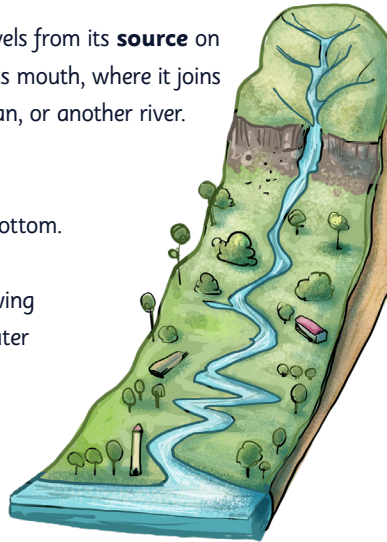


What is a river and how is it formed?

A river is a naturally flowing **body of water** that travels from its **source** on high ground, across the land, and eventually reaches its mouth, where it joins another body of water, such as a lake, the sea, an ocean, or another river.

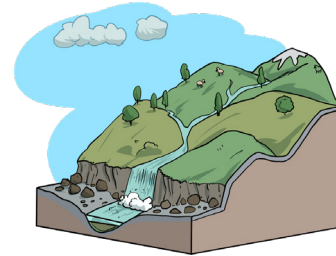
A river flows along a channel.
It has riverbanks on both sides and a riverbed at the bottom.

Rivers begin as small **streams** flowing downhill, following the shape of the land through a **channel**. As more water **collects** in the channel, the stream widens and deepens, becoming a **river**.



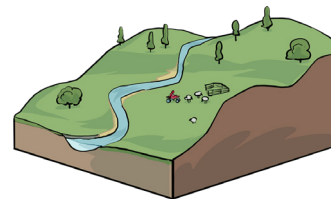
Watch this video to see how a river is formed:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDHvt7pNEc4>

Key features of the course of a river



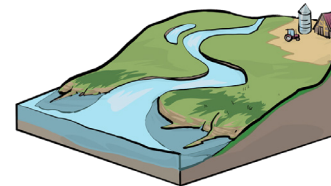
upper course:

steep slopes, narrow channel, shallow depth, fast flow, waterfalls, V-shaped valleys



middle course:

gentler slopes, wider channel, deeper depth, slower flow, meanders, erosion

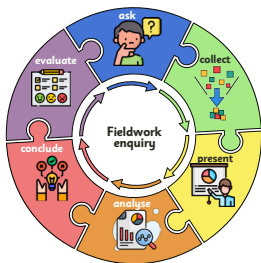


lower course:

flat land, very wide and deep channel, slowest flow, floodplains, oxbow lake, estuary

Fieldwork cycle

When studying a river, **geographers** carry out **fieldwork** to answer a question. Following the fieldwork cycle can help them to stay organised and answer the question step-by-step.



- Ask** – Think about what you want to find out.
- Collect** – Collect information and data.
- Present** – Use graphs, maps, sketches or photos to show your findings.
- Analyse** – Try to spot patterns, similarities or differences in the data.
- Conclude** – Explain what the data shows.
- Evaluate** – Think about what worked well and what you could do even better next time.

Safety

- **Listen** carefully to adults' instructions.
- Keep a **safe distance** from the water's edge.
- Use equipment **sensibly** and share it **safely**.
- Be aware of changing **weather** conditions.
- Wear suitable **footwear** for slippery or uneven ground.

