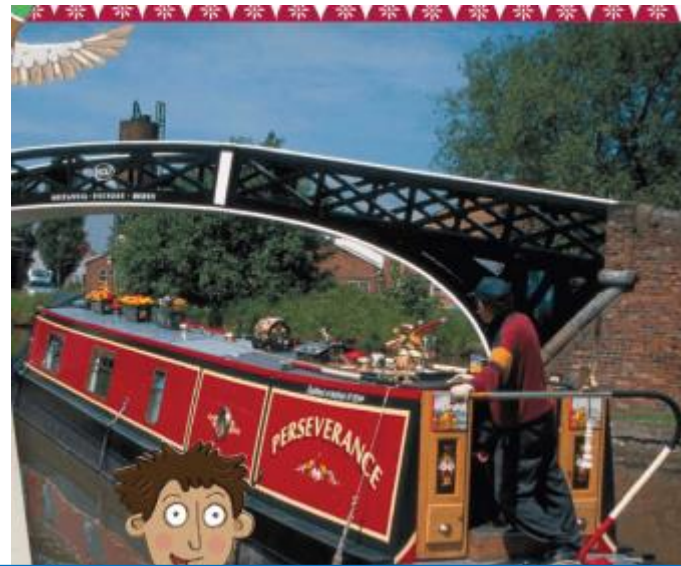




Year 5



Rivers and Canals Knowledge Organiser



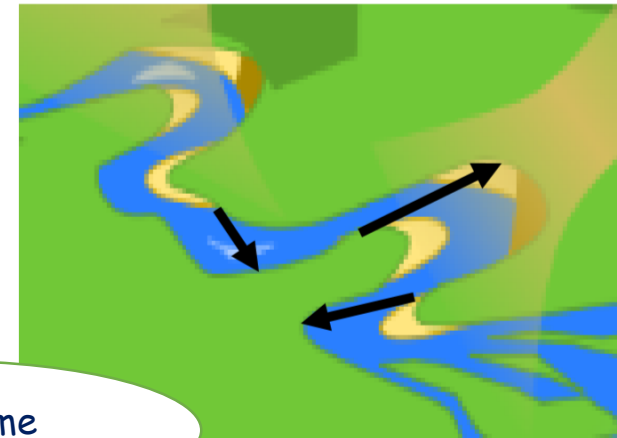
Use of rivers today: a) water supply, trade, transport, food source, irrigation, power, leisure

What is a river?

A river is a moving body of water that flows from its source on high ground, across land, and then into another body of water, which could be a lake, the sea, an ocean or even another river.

A river flows along a channel with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom. If there is lots of rainfall, or snow or ice melting, rivers often rise over the top of their banks and begin to flow onto the floodplains at either side.

Erosion and Deposition



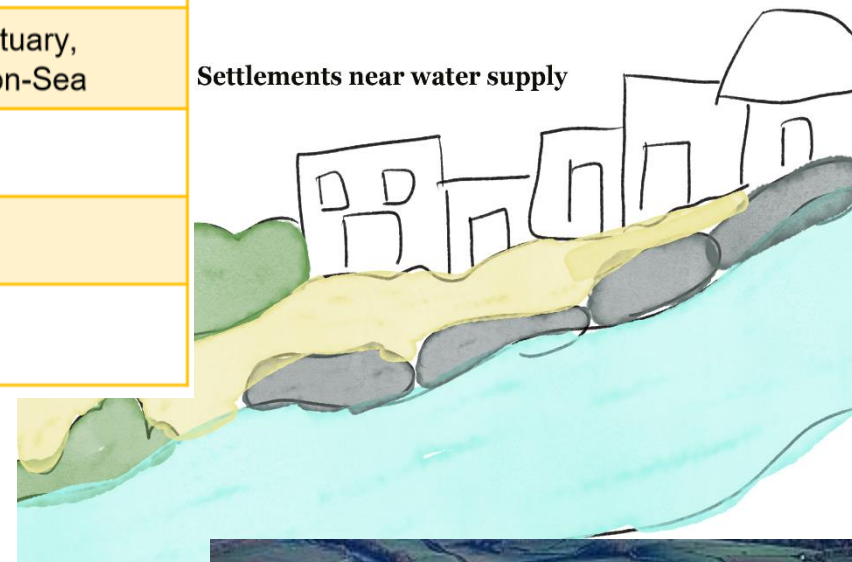
The arrows show the direction of the **river current** which causes **erosion** over time.

Sometimes, two **meanders** can join together to form a 'shortcut'. Water will flow down the shorter route, **deposition** will block off the old route and this will create an **oxbow lake**.

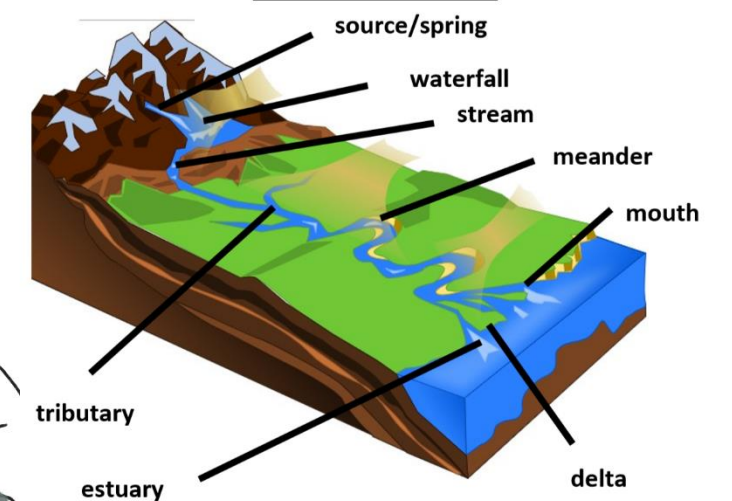
River Tame



Settlements near water supply



Features of a river



3. Parts of a river:

- a) Source - where the river starts from, usually a lake, snowfield or spring
- b) Banks - the edge or sides of the river that the water flows within
- c) Course - the path of the river
- d) Tributary - a stream or river that feeds into a larger watercourse.
- e) River bed - the bottom surface of the river, which the water flows on top
- f) Floodplain - an area of low lying ground adjacent to a river
- g) Meander - a bend in a river
- h) Oxbow - a crescent shaped lake lying alongside a winding river
- i) Mouth - a place where the river ends. It is where it usually meets the sea, ocean, a lake or a larger river.

Facts about the River Thames

Length	356km
Source of river	Thames head, Gloucestershire
Mouth of river	Thames Estuary, Southend-on-Sea
First bridge built	AD 50
Number of bridges	200+
Last time the river froze	1814

Course of a river

Upper course is closest to the source of the river. The land is usually high and mountainous, and the river has a steep gradient with fast-flowing water. It includes V-shaped valleys, rapids, waterfalls and gorges. □ b) Middle course is where the river starts to slow down. It gets wider, and travels in winding loops. It includes floodplains, meanders and oxbow lakes. □ c) Lower course is the last course of a river. The gradient is at its gentlest, as the river approaches the sea. It usually has a wide, smooth channel, and the water moves at its slows.

How are rivers formed?

Rivers usually begin in **upland** areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow downhill. They always flow downhill because of gravity.

They then flow across the land - **meandering** - or going around objects such as hills or large rocks. They flow until they reach another body of water.

As rivers flow, they **erode** the land. Over a long period of time rivers create **valleys**, or gorges and canyons if the river is strong enough to erode rock. They take the **sediment** and carry it along with them.

Small rivers are usually known as streams, brooks or creeks. If they flow from underground they are called springs.

