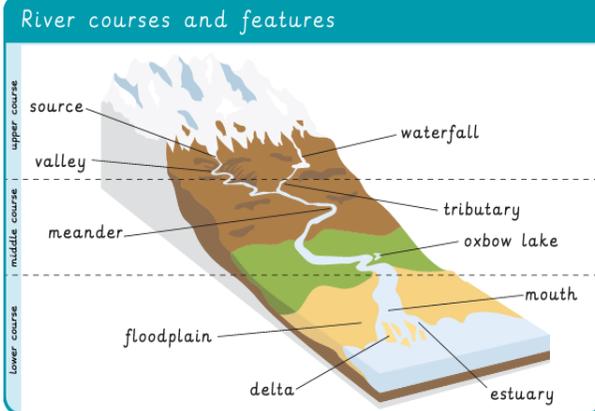**Year 4: What are rivers and how are they used?**

Geography is the study of the Earth's surface and the humans spread across it.

The water cycle

snow, precipitation, transpiration, condensation, glaciers, evaporation, lake, stream, river, ocean, percolation, ground water
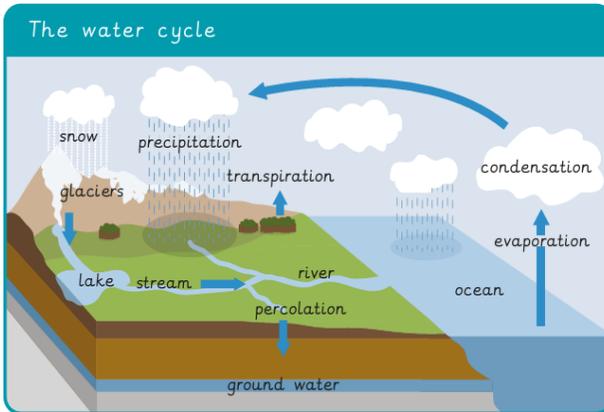
How are rivers used?

- 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.

River courses and features

upper course, middle course, lower course, source, valley, meander, waterfall, tributary, oxbow lake, floodplain, mouth, delta, estuary

Longest river in the UK: The River Severn.

Term	Definition
condensation	The process in which water vapour rises in the air, cools down and turns into small water droplets.
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.
evaporation	The process in which warm water turns from a liquid to a gas in the air.
river mouth	The place where a river flows into the sea.
precipitation	.The process in which water vapour falls from clouds to the ground in the form of rain, sleet or snow.
source	The place where a river starts
tributary	A stream that flows into a larger stream or river.

General Geographical Words

Distance, scale, urban, rural, grid reference, native, nationality, landmark.

What is the water cycle?	How is a river formed?	Where can we find rivers?	How are rivers used?	What can we find out about our local river?	What features does our local river have?