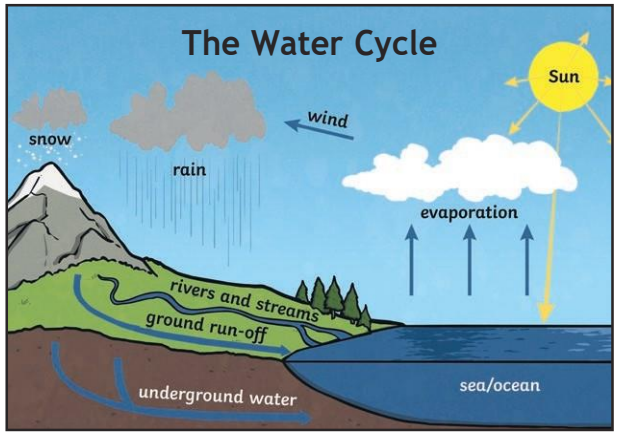
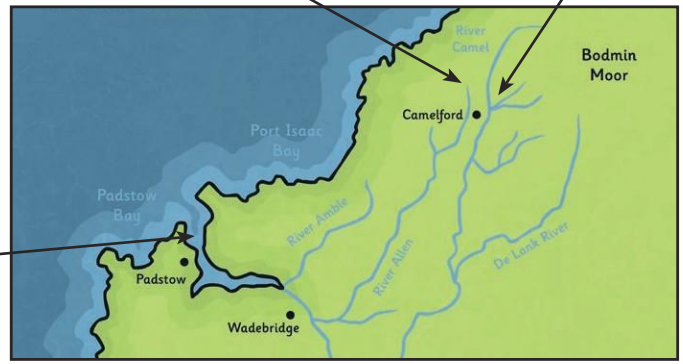
## Key Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| channel | The course in the ground that a river or water flows through. |
| dam | A barrier built to hold back water. |
| deposition/ deposit | When rocks and other materials that have been eroded are dropped off further along the river. |
| discharge | The amount of water flowing along a river per second. |
| States of matter | Understand the different states that water can be: solid, liquid and gas |
| mouth | The point where a river joins the sea. |
| source | The place where a river begins. |
| tidal bore | A strong tide from the coast that pushes the river against the current causing waves along the river. |
| tributaries | Rivers that join up with another river. |
| valley | A long ditch in the earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains. |




Some rivers join up with other rivers (**tributaries**). The point where they meet is called a confluence.

The **source** of most rivers is on high ground or in the mountains.




Rivers in England, at their **mouth**, will flow into either the:
North Sea, Irish Sea, English **Channel** or Atlantic Ocean.

## The Course of a River

### The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**.
Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

### The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider.
Features include - meanders.

### The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried.
Riverbanks have shallower sides.
Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.

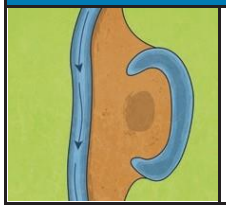


You can also research Rivers here: https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/home-is-good/fascinating-facts-about-rivers/
If you google The Water Cycle there are a variety of websites and fun videos to help you understand what happens – we will be looking at some in class but you can look for yourselves too!

## Meander - a curve in the river

Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

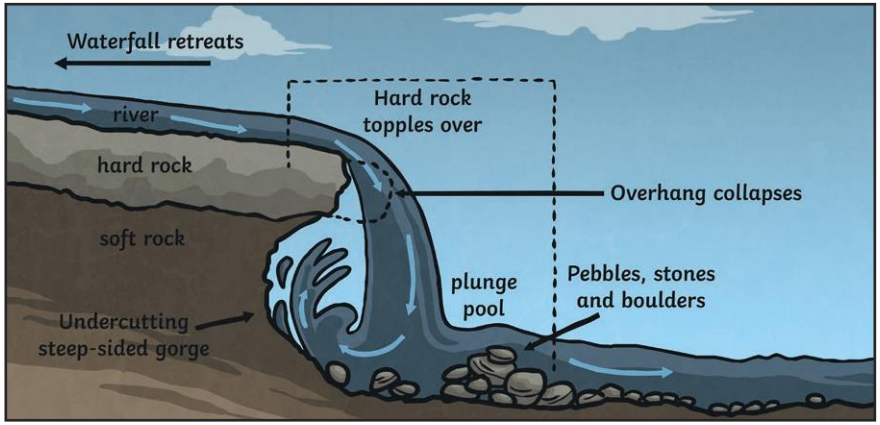
## Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.

## How Do We Use Rivers?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Leisure e.g. fishing** | + | Controlled population of fish |
| | – | May leave litter and pollute the water |
| **Industry e.g. factories** | + | Sections of rivers maintained |
| | – | Chemicals pollute the water and habitats |
| **Tourism e.g. walking routes** | + | Conservation and education about local wildlife |
| | – | Too many people near wildlife habitats |




## Dams

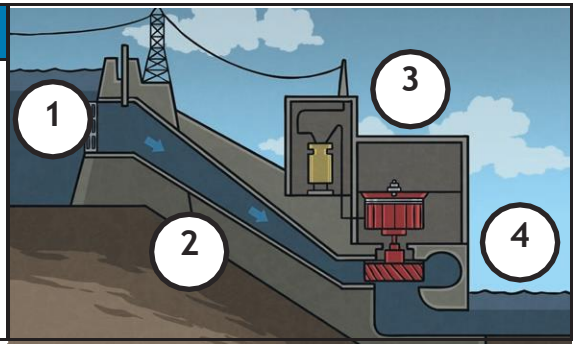
**Dams** are built to hold water back, usually in a reservoir.

**Dams** might be built to:

- control the flow of a river to prevent flooding.
- generate power

## Hydroelectric Power

1. Water is held behind a **dam**.
2. When needed, some of the water is released and flows through a pipe (penstock).
3. The falling water turns a water wheel (turbine) which is linked to a generator which produces electricity.
4. The water continues into the river on the other side of the **dam**.



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