# Y4 GEOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF A RIVER?

## Key Words

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| **Channel** | The outline of the path that a river takes. | **Precipitation** | The forms of water that fall from the sky. |
| **River Bed** | The bottom of a river. | **Run-Off** | The water that flows over the earth and does not evaporate or filter into the ground. |
| **Reaches** | The parts of a river. | **Percolation** | The movement of rainwater through soil and rock. |
| **Source** | The original point where a river begins. | **Tributaries** | Smaller streams that join a river. |
| **Mouth** | The end of a river, where it enters a lake, sea or ocean. | **Deltas** | Forms where a river splits and spreads into smaller branches before meeting the sea. |
| **Estuary** | Forms where the mouth of a river with fresh river water and salt sea water meet and mix. | **River Erosion** | The wearing away of the Earth's surface by the action of the river water and the materials being carried along by the river. |

## Key Ideas

- [ ] **A river is a natural watercourse which, due to gravity, flows downhill towards the sea. While flowing downhill, it creates landscape features, flooding, eroding, moving and depositing materials. A river is part of a physical process called the water cycle.**
- [ ] Rivers vary along their length depending upon the stage of the river. This leads to great diversity in landscape features along the course of each river.
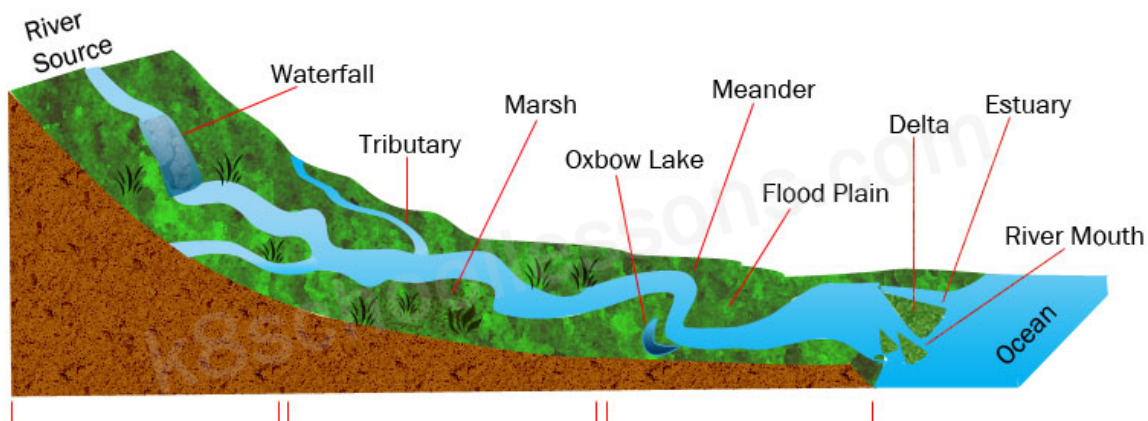


- [ ] A river begins at a source and follows a path called a course and ends at a mouth. Rivers carve a V shaped channel in their upper course. In the middle course where a river flows over flatter land, meanders and floodplains may form. In the lower course, rivers sometimes develop deltas in their mouths. A river with its mouth in saline tidal water will form an estuary.
- [ ] Humans try to control rivers, diverting the course or enclosing them as they flow through urban areas. Humans utilise rivers for many reasons: transport, power, leisure and water supply.
- [ ] A river is part of a physical process called the water cycle.