

Year 3 Magpies

Geography

Summer 2

Rivers



What is a river?

A river is a moving body of water that drains the land. It 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.

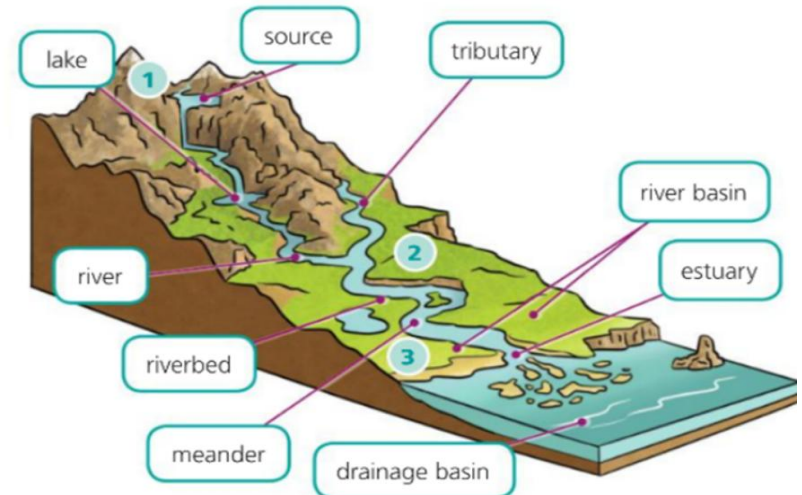
Every river has a starting point called a source. Most are on mountains because that is where rain often falls. Water collects and starts to flow down as a stream. Several of these small streams join together to form a river.

Why are rivers important?

Throughout history, rivers have been used for travel and trading, providing a water source for crops, and fresh water for people to bathe in and drink.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
bank	The land at the side of a river.
basin	An area of land drained by a river.
confluence	The point where two rivers join together.
current	The strength and speed of a river.
dam	A barrier across a river that blocks flowing water.
delta	A wetland area formed when a river empties its water and sediment into the sea.
erosion	Where rocks and earth wear away, changing the shape of the land.
estuary	The area where a river widens and meets the sea.
floodplain	The flat area around a river that often gets flooded when the level of water in the river is high.
gorge	A deep, narrow valley with steep sides, usually formed by a river cutting through hard rock.
meander	A curve or bend in a stream of river.
mouth of a river	The end of a river where the sea begins
rapids	A fast flowing river and turbulent part of the river.
river	A large natural stream of water that flows into lakes or seas.
river basin	The area of and from which water has drained into a river.
river source	The start of the river, usually on high ground.
stream	A small narrow river.
tributaries	A stream or lots of streams that join together into a river.
watershed	The edge of a river basin.
waterway	A route within a river that is used by people for travelling along, for pleasure, travel or for trade.

Key Features of Rivers.



1: Upper course 2: Middle course 3: Lower course

Rivers of the world

Europe

River Thames, London



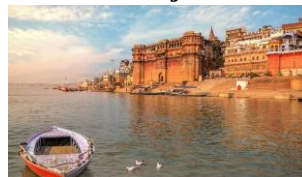
Europe

Little Ouse, Brandon



Asia

River Ganges, India



South America

Amazon River, Brazil



Africa

River Nile, Egypt



Australia

River Murray, Australia

