

Rivers Key Words

Key word	Definition
Condensation	Water vapour cools in the sky and turns back into water liquid.
Confluence	The place where two small rivers join.
Deposition	Where sediment is dropped or deposited by wind, waves, rivers, glaciers or people.
Delta	A fan shaped landform that has been created by sediment deposited at the river mouth.
Drainage basin	The area of land drained by a river.
Erosion	The picking up of broken-down rock by wind, waves, rivers, glaciers or people.
Estuary	A wide part of the river before its mouth.
Evaporation	The sun heats liquid water which turns into a gas called water vapour.
Floodplain	A low flat area found by the side of the river in the lower course of the river. It is covered in water when the river floods.
Groundwater flow	Water flows through the soil.
Meander	A bend in the river.
Mouth	The place where the river meets the sea.
Precipitation	Water that falls from the air to the ground. Includes rain, snow, hail, sleet, drizzle and fog.
River channel	Where the river flows.
Saltation	Material bounces along the river bed and moves down the river
Solution	Material is dissolved in water and carried along by the river.
Source	The start of a river.
Spurs	A part of a hill sticking out into a valley which the river bends around.
Surface runoff	When water hits the land, some of it flows across the ground into rivers.
Suspension	Very light and small material is suspended in the river and carried along by the water.
Traction	Material is rolled along the river bed by the water.
Transportation	Where material is moved from one place to another by wind, waves, rivers, glaciers or people.
Tributary	A smaller river joining a bigger river.
V-Shaped valley	A steep sided valley eroded by a river, usually in the upper course of the river.
Watershed	The boundary of a drainage basin.

Weathering	A process where rocks are broken up (physical, chemical, biological, Freeze thaw).
Water vapour	Water in the form of a gas