

# River Glossary

bank	The riverbank is the land at the side of the river.
basin	The land water must cross to reach a river. It collects all available water from tributaries, creeks and streams in its area.
bed	The bed is the bottom of a river. A riverbed can be made of sand, rocks or mud depending on the river.
canal	A man-made waterway that is used so that boats can transport goods across the country.
current	The strength and speed of the river. Water always flows downhill; the steeper the ground is, the stronger the current will be.
confluence	The junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width.
delta	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea. The river slows down and drops all the sediment it was carrying.
downstream	The direction that the water flows, downhill towards the sea.
erosion	A fast flowing river can damage the riverbanks and wash bits of them downstream, making the river wider.
estuary	Where a river reaches the ocean and the river and ocean mix. Estuaries are normally wide and flat.
floodplain	The flat area around a river that often gets flooded when the level of water in the river is high.
fresh water	Rainwater that falls from the sky has no salt in it. We call this fresh water.
meander	A river that follows a winding course.
mouth	The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake.
salt water	The type of water in seas and oceans.
silt	Small bits of dirt or sand that are carried along by a river.
source	The start of a river is its source. This could be a spring on a hillside, a lake, a bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.
stream	A small river.
tidal river	At the end of a river, near the ocean, water from the sea flows up the river when the tide comes in. This part of the river is called 'tidal'.
tributary	A smaller river or stream that joins a big river.
upstream	The opposite direction to the way the water in a river flows.
watershed	Water flows down the side of hills into rivers, but water that lands on opposite sides of the same hill might flow into different rivers. The watershed is the boundary between two river basins.



# Rivers

Water Cycle	water moving continuously from the ocean/land to the sky and back
Evaporation	liquid water changing to water vapor and rising to the atmosphere
Condensation	water vapor changing to liquid and forming clouds
Transpiration	evaporation from plants
Precipitation	rain, sleet, snow, or hail falling down

- 1.The start of a river is called the source and the end is called the mouth.
- 2.Rivers carry rainwater from hills downhill to other rivers, lakes or the ocean.
- 3.Many rivers and streams will join together before they reach the mouth of the river. The smaller rivers and streams are called tributaries.
- 4.A fast flowing river will carry soil and dirt from its banks and bed downstream and drop them when it gets wider and slows down.
- 5.When there is too much water in a river it floods and covers the area around it water. Rivers can be difficult and dangerous to cross. Towns often grow up where there are bridges or safe places to walk across.
- 6.The longest river in the world is the Nile in Africa. It is 4,130 miles long.
- 7.The longest rivers in Britain are the Severn (220 miles long) and the Thames (215 miles long).
- 8.Our local river is the River Wey. The source is a spring in Alton.

