

# Year 4 - Rivers

## Key Vocabulary

**River** - a large natural flow of water, which flows towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river

**Source** - the place where a river begins

**Tributaries** - rivers that join up with another river

**Erosion** - rocks and other river materials are picked up by the water and moved to another place along the river

**Dam** - a barrier built to hold the water back

**Waterfall** - a place in a river where water spills suddenly downward

**Reservoir** - a place where water is kept in store for future use

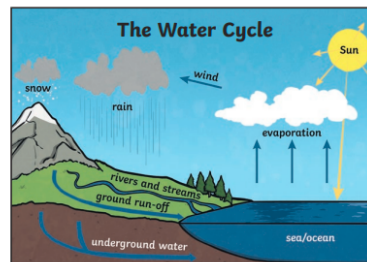
**Lake** - large bodies of water that are surrounded by land and are not part of an ocean

**Canal** - a man-made waterway that is used for shipping and travel

**(How can you tell the difference between a canal and river on a map?)**

## Year 4 River Facts

- We live close to the River Irwell.
- Streams, creeks and brooks are all smaller than a river.
- Seas and Oceans are larger than rivers.
- The longest river in the UK is the River Severn.
- The longest river in the World is the River Nile.
- The start of a river is called the **source** and the end of the river is called the **mouth**.
- The source of most rivers is on a high ground or in the mountains.
- Lots of animals live in rivers.
- Rivers can flood if the rainfall is too high.
- 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.

## Extension

**How does your learning about rivers fit in with your learning about the Water Cycle in Science?**

**The River Nile supported life in Ancient Egypt. Why do you think that was?**