



Rivers



A **river** is a natural flowing watercourse, usually freshwater, flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river. In some cases a river flows into the ground and becomes dry at the end of its course without reaching another body of water. Small rivers can be referred to using names such as stream, creek, brook, rivulet, and rill.

Key Knowledge

Rivers of the World	River	Length (km)	Discharge (m ³ /s)
	Amazon	6,437	209,000
	Congo	4,700	41,000
	Mississippi	3,734	16,700
	Ob	3,650	12,475
	Nile	6,853	2,830
	<p>The River Nile The Nile River is the longest river in the world. The Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea. The largest source of the Nile is Lake Victoria.</p> <p>The Mississippi The Mississippi and Missouri Rivers come together to form the longest river system in the USA and North America.</p> <p>The Amazon The Amazon River is located in South America. It runs through Guyana, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru. There are over 3000 known species of fish that live in the Amazon River.</p>		

River Courses	
Erosion and Deposition	Rivers erode the ground as they flow over it. They carry with them loose rocks, pebbles and stones which knock against the sides (bank) and bottom (bed) of the river. This goes on for thousands of years and in time the banks and bed of a river are worn away. They carve valleys and shape the landscape
The Wey Canal	The River Wey Navigation linked the Thames and a large part of central southern England via the Basingstoke and the Wey and Arun canals.

Key Vocabulary

Amazon	The Amazon River in South America is the largest river by discharge volume of water in the world	middle course	features include wider, shallower valleys, meanders, and oxbow lakes
channel	a hollow bed for a natural or artificial waterway	Mississippi	The Mississippi River is the second-longest river
Congo	The Congo River is the second longest river in Africa, shorter only than the Nile, as well as the second largest river in the world by discharge volume	mouth	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean is called its mouth
confluence	the junction of two rivers	Nile	The Nile is a major north-flowing river in northeastern Africa, and is the longest river in Africa and the disputed longest river in the world
dam	A dam is a barrier that stops or restricts the flow of water or underground streams	Ob	The Ob River is a major river in western Siberia, Russia, and is the world's seventh-longest river
delta	a triangular tract of sediment deposited at the mouth of a river, typically where it diverges into several outlets	oxbow lake	An oxbow lake is a U-shaped lake that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water
deposition	Deposition is the processes where material being transported by a river is deposited	plunge pool	a deep basin excavated at the foot of a waterfall by the action of the falling water
displace	move (something) from its proper or usual position	rapids	a fast-flowing and turbulent part of the course of a river
erosion	the process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents	reservoir	a large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply
estuary	the tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream	silt	fine sand, clay, or other material carried by running water and deposited as a sediment, especially in a channel or harbour
floodplain	an area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding	source	The source , or headwaters, of a river or stream is the farthest place in that river or stream from its estuary or confluence with another river, as measured along the course of the river
flow	rivers flow downhill with their power derived from gravity	tributaries	a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake
gorge	a narrow valley between hills or mountains, typically with steep rocky walls and a stream running through it	transportation	rivers transport material in four ways: Solution - minerals are dissolved in the water and carried along in solution. ... Saltation - small pebbles and stones are bounced along the river bed. Traction - large boulders and rocks are rolled along the river bed
levee	an embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river	upper course	features include steep-sided V-shaped valleys, interlocking spurs, rapids, waterfalls and gorges
lower course	features include wide flat-bottomed valleys, floodplains and deltas	upstream	in the opposite direction from that in which a stream or river flows
meander	follow a winding course	valley	a low area of land between hills or mountains, typically with a river or stream flowing through it

Where Have We Built Dams?

