




Rivers and Canals

What impact do the waterways have on people's lives?

Key Vocabulary	Key Questions and Facts	
<p><b>Canal:</b> Waterways built by people used for shipping and transport.</p> <p><b>Mouth:</b> Where the river enters the sea.</p> <p><b>River:</b> a flowing, moving stream of water.</p> <p><b>Water cycle:</b> The journey of water on the Earth</p> <p><b>Erosion:</b> Erosion is the transport by wind, water and ice of soil, sediment and rock fragments produced by the weathering of geological features.</p> <p><b>Estuary:</b> An estuary is the tidal part of the river. It will be near the mouth of the river, where the river meets the sea. The water level in the estuary rises and falls with the tide.</p> <p><b>Stream:</b> A small, fast flow of water</p> <p><b>Levées:</b> Form in the lower course along the riverbanks due to repeated flooding. As water overflows the main channel, it loses energy,</p>	<p><b>What are the differences between canals, rivers and ponds?</b></p> <p>Rivers are natural Rivers are formed at a source such as a natural spring or a glacier and flow down the land to the sea. Canals are built by people Canals are built to carry goods by boat from one place to another. Lakes and ponds are standing bodies of water while rivers and streams are distinguished by a fast-moving current. While there appear to be clear distinctions, the differences become subtle in regions where rivers widen, and current slows such that the river could be considered a lake or a pond.</p> 	<p><b>How are rivers formed?</b></p> <p>Rivers usually begin in upland areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow downhill. They always flow downhill because of gravity. They then flow and bend (meander) as they cross the land or go around objects such as hills or large rocks. They flow until they reach another body of water. As rivers flow, they <b>erode</b> (or wear away) the land.</p> <p><b>What will children know by the end of the unit?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers in the UK. Features of Rivers and canals.</li> <li>• Rivers have sources, channels, tributaries and mouths.</li> <li>• River receives water from a wide area and flows eventually into a lake or the sea. The water flows naturally downwards, sometimes underground and eventually to the sea.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>What are the main threats to our waterways?</b></p> <p>Pollution in freshwater ecosystems includes pathogens from human and animal waste, nutrients from wastewater and agriculture, organic</p>	<p><b>Why are our waterways important?</b></p> <p>People depend on rivers for their way of life and their livelihoods. From fishing to agriculture, the way we manage our waterways has a direct impact on people's lives.</p> <p>Our iconic rivers are vital habitats for a vast array of</p>
	<p><b>Useful Website:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.wwf.org.uk">https://www.wwf.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f</a></p> <p><a href="https://waterways.org.uk/">https://waterways.org.uk/</a></p>	

depositing material creating natural embankments.

**Floodplain:** The floodplain is the wide valley floor on either side of the river in the lower course. When this area of land floods material will be deposited because the water loses velocity.

**River Thames:** The River Thames known alternatively in parts as the river Isis, is a river that flows through southern England including London.

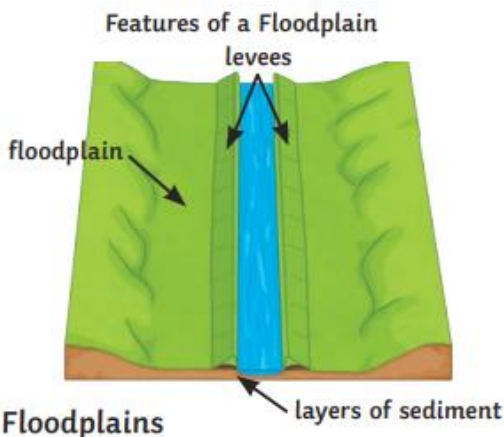
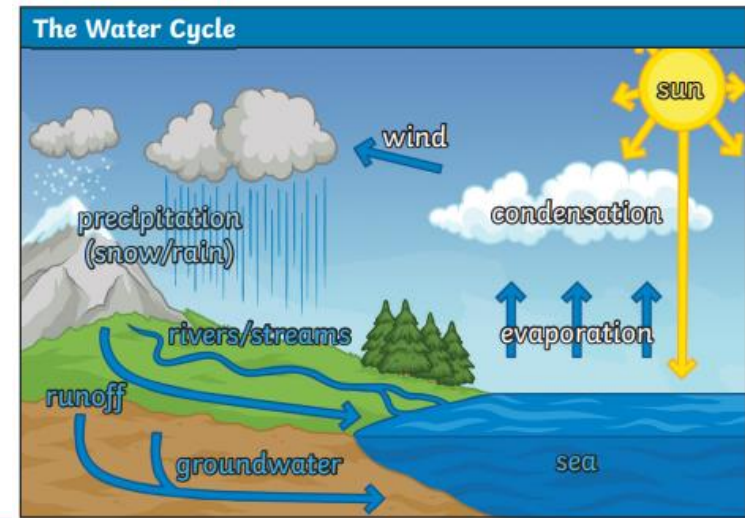
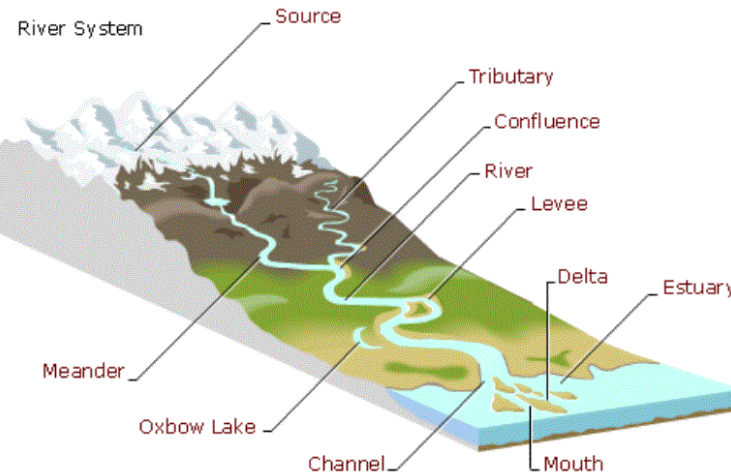
**River Severn:** The River Severn, at 220 miles long, is the longest river in Great Britain





matter from agricultural run-off, and chemical pollution from pesticides and runoff from mines. Climate change and flooding are big threats to our waterways.

species from the salmon to the otter. They provide important spaces we can all enjoy – something that is increasingly beneficial to our health and wellbeing.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.worldatlas.com/> - differences between a river and canal.



Flooding			
Fluvial	Pluvial	Coastal	Plumbing
			
Lots of rainfall causing rivers to burst their banks.	Heavy rainfall cannot drain away quickly enough.	High tides and storms.	Broken pipes in buildings.
Flooding can be prevented in some areas by building dams and flood barriers. However, blocking a river at one location can cause flooding further up or downstream.			

# Additional information

