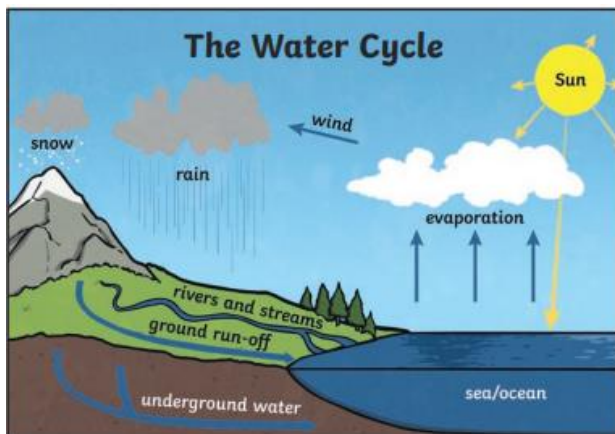


WILD WATERS: RIVERS, OCEANS AND THE WATER CYCLE – RED SQUIRREL CLASS

Key Vocabulary

arch	Where a cave has eroded back to the other side of a headland.
dam	A barrier across a river which is built to stop the water from flowing
deposition	The natural process where material is dropped or left behind.
erosion	The natural process where land is worn away (by wind, rain or ice) and transported to another location.
groyne	A low barrier built out into the sea that prevents sand and stones on the beach from washing away.
meander	A curve or bend in a stream or river.
reservoir	A natural or artificial lake where water is stored.
stump	A short column of rock, an eroded stack, standing in the sea.
stack	A tall column of rock that has separated from the cliff, standing in the sea
run-off	Rain, water or other liquid that runs off land into streams and rivers.



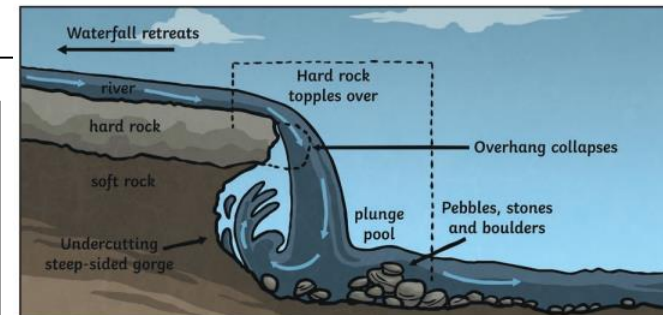
The **source** of most rivers is on high ground or in the mountains. Rivers in England, at their **mouth**, will flow into either the: North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel or Atlantic Ocean.

Weathering, Erosion and Deposition

As rivers travel downstream, they forge a path around obstacles in their way, creating meanders (curves and bends). The river slowly wears away materials it comes into contact with on its journey, causing erosion (around the outside of a bend where the water flows fastest) and deposition (on the inside of a bend) where the water flows more slowly.

Coasts are also prone to the physical forces of weathering and erosion from the action of the sea, forming caves, arches, stacks and stumps. Particles of rock that have been eroded will be deposited elsewhere on the coast.

Coastal erosion can cause cliffs to crumble away and retreat back, impacting on human settlements. Barriers, such as sea walls and groynes, can help prevent coastal erosion.



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.

Links to previous learning:

- Water cycle, materials, rainforests

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.

