

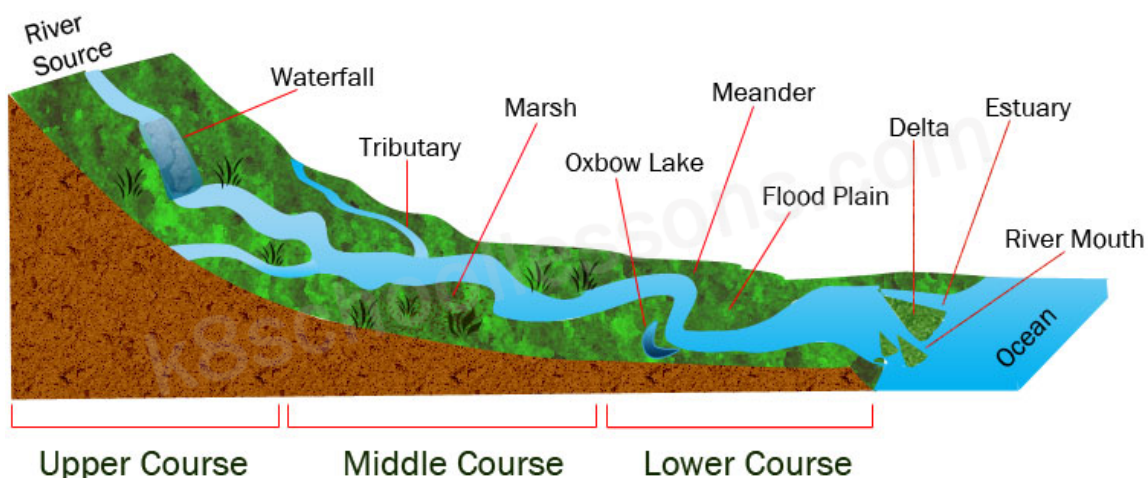
Y4 GEOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: **WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF A RIVER?**

Key Words

Channel	The outline of the path that a river takes.	Precipitation	The forms of water that fall from the sky.
River Bed	The bottom of a river.	Run-Off	The water that flows over the earth and does not evaporate or filter into the ground.
Reaches	The parts of a river.	Percolation	The movement of rainwater through soil and rock.
Source	The original point where a river begins.	Tributaries	Smaller streams that join a river.
Mouth	The end of a river, where it enters a lake, sea or ocean.	Deltas	Forms where a river splits and spreads into smaller branches before meeting the sea.
Estuary	Forms where the mouth of a river with fresh river water and salt sea water meet and mix.	River Erosion	The wearing away of the Earth's surface by the action of the river water and the materials being carried along by the river.

Key Ideas

- A river is a natural watercourse which, due to gravity, flows downhill towards the sea. While flowing downhill, it creates landscape features, flooding, eroding, moving and depositing materials. A river is part of a physical process called the water cycle.
- Rivers vary along their length depending upon the stage of the river. This leads to great diversity in landscape features along the course of each river.



- A river begins at a source and follows a path called a course and ends at a mouth. Rivers carve a V shaped channel in their upper course. In the middle course where a river flows over flatter land, meanders and floodplains may form. In the lower course, rivers sometimes develop deltas in their mouths. A river with its mouth in saline tidal water will form an estuary.
- Humans try to control rivers, diverting the course or enclosing them as they flow through urban areas. Humans utilise rivers for many reasons: transport, power, leisure and water supply.
- A river is part of a physical process called the water cycle.

