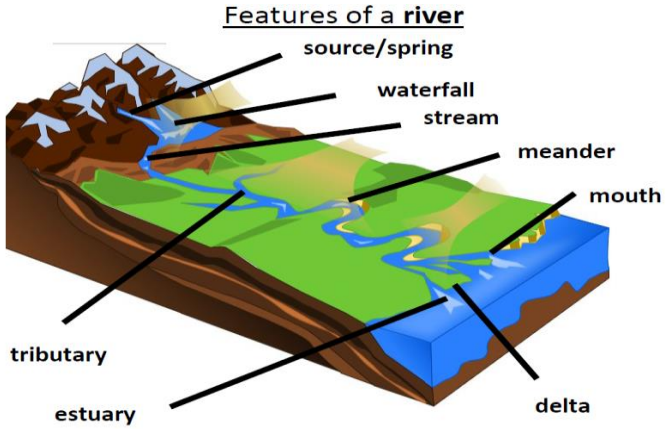
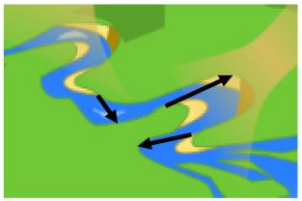
Year 4
Rivers

Geography





Erosion and deposition
The arrows show the direction of the **river current** which causes **erosion** over time.

Sometimes, two **meanders** can join together to form a 'shortcut'. Water will flow down the shorter route, **deposition** will block off the old route and this will create an **oxbow lake**.

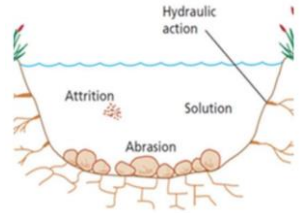
Sticky Knowledge

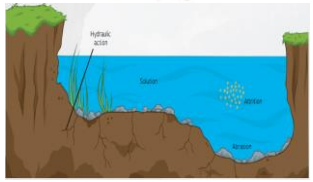
- The start of a river is called the source and the end is called the mouth.
- A fast flowing river will carry soil and dirt from its banks and bed downstream and drop them when it gets wider and slows down.
- The longest river in the world is the Nile in Africa. It is 4,130 miles long.
- Many rivers and streams will join together before they reach the mouth of the river. The smaller rivers and streams are called tributaries.
- Most cities are located by a river because they provide us with food, energy, recreation, transportation routes, and water for irrigation and for drinking.

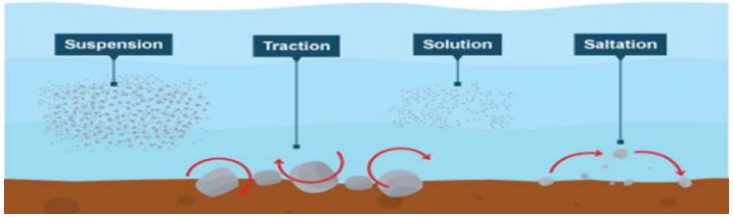
British Rivers	Famous Rivers
Thames (London) **Seven** (Britain's longest river running from Wales to Bristol) **Mersey** (Liverpool)	**Amazon River** (South America) **Volga River** (Russia) **River Nile** (Sudan & Egypt)

Erosion

Abrasion	Sandpapering: rocks wear away each other and the riverbed and banks
Attrition	Crashing: rocks collide and break up
Solution	Chemical action: acids in the water dissolve the rock
Hydraulic action	Water power: the force of water breaks down the riverbed and banks







Transportation

Traction	Tractor wheels: large rocks roll along the riverbed
Saltation	Jumping beans: pebbles bounce along the riverbed
Suspension	Hoverboard: small sediment is carried along in the flow of the river
Solution	Invisible material: the smallest sediment is dissolved into water

Key Vocabulary

estuary	An area where a freshwater river or stream meets the ocean.
mouth	A river mouth is the part of a river where the river flows into another river, a lake, a reservoir, a sea, or an ocean.
source	The source of a river is where it begins, usually on high ground.
meander	A winding curve or bend in a river.
waterfall	Waterfalls form where water rushes down steep hillsides in upland areas and erodes the rocks.
erosion	Erosion occurs when the fastest currents in the river carve into the banks.
deposition	Rocks and sediments eroded from one part of the river are deposited in another part.
tributary	When one stream or river meets another and merge together, the smaller stream or river is known as a tributary.
Ox bow lake	Created when the meander is so deep that it cuts off a piece of the river and leaves a lake.
delta	Wide areas of water often found at the mouth of large rivers.
stream	A small body of flowing water.