

### What is a river?

- A river is a path that water takes as it flows downhill, normally towards another river, a lake, sea or ocean.
- Rivers come in many different shapes and sizes, and often join together to make larger rivers.
- As rivers a ready source of water, lots of plants/ animals often live near or in them.
- Most inland human settlements were originally formed around rivers. In addition to drinking and bathing, rivers were also important waterways for trade.
- Rivers can flood, at which point they can become exceptionally dangerous.

### Features of a river.

**Source** - This is the beginning of a river, sometimes known as its headwaters. Some come from underground springs, whilst others are formed by mountain rainfall/ snow.

**Tributary** - A river or stream that feeds into another river, rather than ending in a lake, a sea, or an ocean.

**Watershed** - The area of land that drains into a specific river.

**Floodplain** - An (often low-lying) area of land which becomes covered in water when a river overflows.

**Channel** - The path a river takes is called its channel. A rivers course depends on the amount of water it holds, how long it has been flowing, and the types of rock that it flows over.

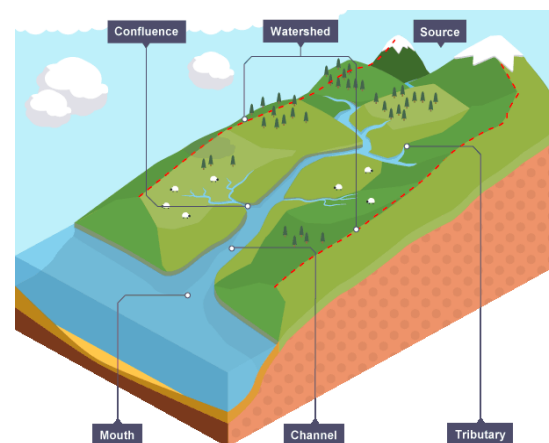
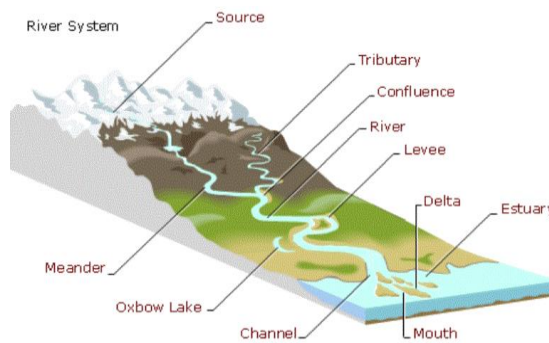
**Riverbank** - The land immediately along the river. This land is often fertile.

**Confluence** - The junction of two rivers.

**Flow** - The name given for the amount of water that a river holds. This can change through the year, e.g. in rainy seasons.

**Mouth** - The endpoint of a river, at which it reaches a lake, sea or ocean.

### Our local river - The River Tyne



### Key Vocabulary.

River	a flowing, moving stream of water
Stream	A small, fast flow of water
Canal	Waterways built by people used for shipping and transport.
Reservoir	The store of water that is help back by a dam
Lake	Large bodies of water that are surrounded by land and are not part of an ocean
Source	A huge body of salt water
Channel	Where a river begins its journey
Tributary	A small river or stream that meets a large river
Mouth	Where the river enters the sea
Confluence	Where two rivers meet
Meander	A winding bend in the river
Estuary	The last section of the river before the sea
Water cycle	The journey of water on the Earth

### Important facts.

-Water always flows downhill. This is important for understanding how rivers form, and how they contribute to the water cycle.

-Rivers are fresh water - oceans are salt water.

-When rivers are flowing quickly, they take bits of earth off banks downstream. This is called erosion.

-When there has been too much rainfall, rivers may overflow or 'burst their banks.' This can cause significant flooding.

-Most of the water that we drink is taken from rivers. It is cleaned before it is suitable to drink.

-Silt is material carried by running water, for example earth or minerals.

-Sometimes, rivers carry so much silt that they form new land, called a Delta.

