

All animals, including humans, are born; they get older and bigger and some will go on to have children. In the end, all animals die. We call this a life cycle.


## Key Vocabulary

Bank
The bank is the margin or side of a river.

Condensation Condensation consists of small drops of water which form when warm water vapour or steam touches a cold surface such as a window.

Current A current is a steady and continuous, flowing movement of some of the water in a river, lake or sea.

Delta

Erosion

Estuary
An estuary is a drowned river valley, where the river flows into the sea. mouth of the river that is triangular in shape and hence named after the Greek letter.

Esion is the process of wearing away and removal of material mainly in the river channel and along the bank.

## Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in channels and flows downwards forming a stream. As it flows quickly downhill it joins other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. In its upper course, a river is shallow and narrow. It can erode soil and rock, often producing waterfalls, and gorges. At this stage the river can cut deeper into the riverbed forming a $V$-shaped valley.

## Middle Course

In the middle course, the river has more energy and a high volume of water. The erosion has now widened the channel and the river has deepened. At this section the river with meander and overtime oxbow lakes, will form

## Lower Course

In the lower course, the river gets wider, deeper and faster but flows with less force due to the flat land. During this stage, the river becomes more prone to flooding and within urban areas some defences may be put up. This section will have floodplains, deltas and estuaries and the river ends.

## Key Vocabulary

Evaporation Evaporation is when a liquid changes to a vapor, caused by an increase in temperature and/or a decrease in pressure.

Floodplains Floodplains are the flat area bordering a river, composed of sediment deposited during flooding.

Gorge
A gorge is a narrow steep-sided valley caused by a waterfall eroding backwards, e.g. Niagara or by a powerful vertical erosion sometimes combined with uplifting landscapes, e.g. Grand Canyon.

## Meander

Mouth The mouth is where a river enters the river or a lake, the river flow slows, loses its energy and often deposition occurs.

Source The source is the starting point of a river, the source of the highest tributary.

Tributary Tributaries are small river or streams, which flow into a larger river.
A meander is a bend or loop in the river usually in the middle or lower course.

- The Niagara Falls are located on the border of Ontario, Canada and New York, USA.
- It's made up of three waterfalls; the American Falls, the Bridal Veil Falls, (smallest) and the Horseshoe Falls (largest).
- Together they combine to produce the highest flow rate of any waterfall on Earth.
- The Niagara River drains water from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario.
- At the current state of erosion, scientists believe that the Niagara Falls will be gone in around 50,000 years.
- The Falls are visited by around 30 million people every year.

On $16^{\text {th }}$ August 2004, 75 mm of rain fell in just 2 hours - this is the same amount which normally falls throughout the whote of August. After 2 billion litres of water flowed in the rivers Valency and Jordan, they burst their banks.
The water quickly travelled through the village of Boscastle - gushing into houses, shops and pubs.
The water eroded river banks, damaged gardens and pavements.


## Waterfalls

Formation of a waterfall:
The soft rock erodes more quickly, undercutting the hard rock.
The hard rock is left overhanding and so collapses.
The fallen rock crashes into a plunge pool causing more erosion.


The Water Cycle
Wind
Wind
Wind

