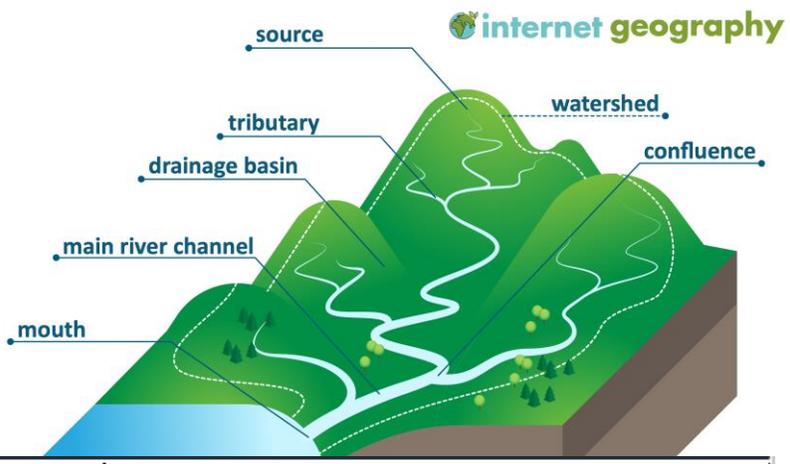


Activity village



What is a Meander?

A meander is a bend in a river. They are found mainly in lowland areas and are extremely common in the middle course of a river.

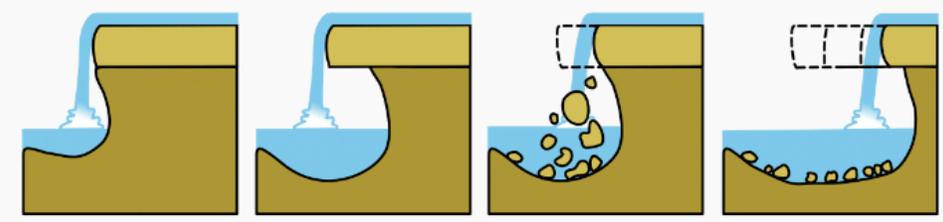


Drainage Basin	The area of land in which water drains into a specific river.
Source	The point where the river begins.
Tributary	A stream or small river that joins a larger stream or big river.
Confluence	A point where two streams or rivers meet.
Mouth	The point where the river meets the sea or ocean.



Erosion	The wearing away or breakdown of rocks by wind, water or ice.
Hydraulic Action	The force of water hits against the river channel and removes material. It is common with fast moving, high energy water.
Abrasion	Sediment carried by the river hits the river channel and removes material.
Corrosion	Chemicals in the water dissolve rocks (e.g. limestone)
Attrition	Stones carried by the river hit into each other, gradually making the rocks smaller and smoother. Rocks in the upper course are large and more angular than rocks in the lower course.

The formation of a waterfall



1. Waterfalls typically form in the upper stages of a river. They occur where a band of hard rock overlies a softer rock. Falling water and rock particles erode the soft rock below the soft rock, creating a plunge pool.
2. The soft rock is undercut by erosional processes such as hydraulic action and abrasion creating a plunge pool where water and debris swirl around eroding the rock through corrosion further deepening it and creating an overhang.
3. Hard rock overhang above the plunge pool collapses as its weight is no longer supported.
4. Erosion continues and the waterfall retreats upstream leaving behind a gorge.