

# RIVERS

## KEY FACTS

### Rivers of the World

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- The Nile is a river in Africa. It is the longest river in the world.
- The Amazon is a river in South America. It flows through the rain forest.
- The longest river in Asia is the Yangtze in China.
- The longest river in Europe is the Volga in Russia.
- The Mississippi-Missouri is the longest river in North America.
- The River Thames flows through London. It is the second longest river in the UK.
- The longest river in the UK is the Severn, which flows through and Wales and England.

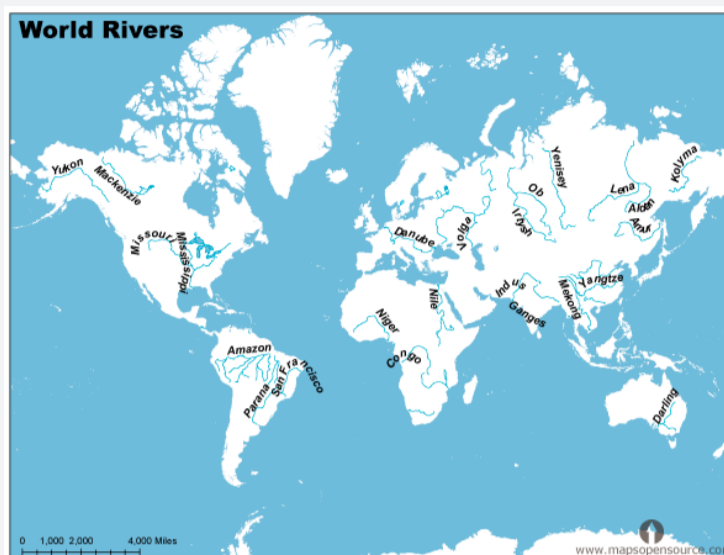


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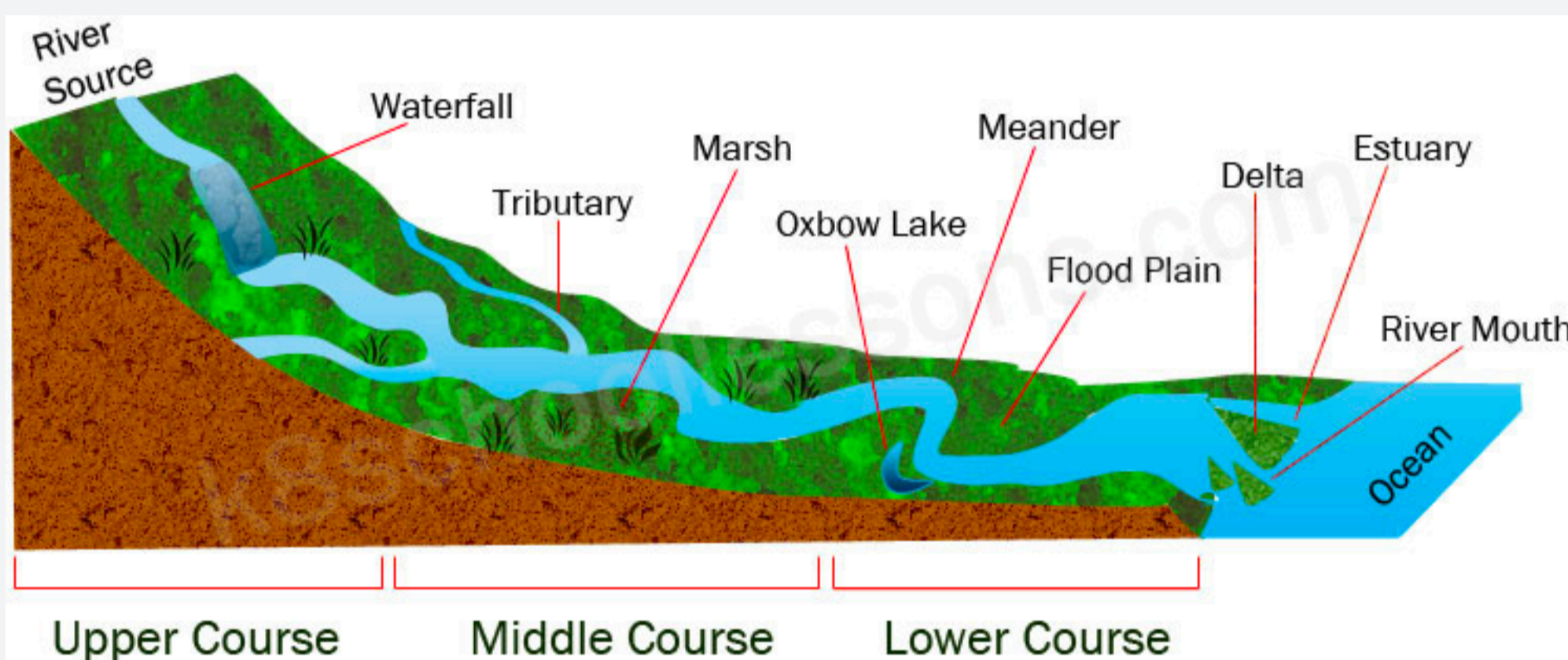


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## FLOODS

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- Floods can be caused by heavy rain or tidal surges.
- Rivers can burst their banks and flood the surrounding land.
- London is protected from flooding by the Thames Barrier which is made of ten steel gates and can be open and closed.
- It was built in 1982 at Woolwich in East London.



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## KEY VOCABULARY

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- Continent:** a large land mass, sometimes containing more than one country.
- Source:** the start of a river.
- Tributary:** a small river leading into a larger one.
- Mouth:** where the river opens into the sea.
- Precipitation:** rain, hail, sleet or snow.
- Floodplain:** the land beside a river which becomes flooded easily.
- Tidal:** related to the sea's tides.
- Fluvial:** related to the movement of the water in a river.
- Surge:** a sudden powerful rush (of water).