

Glossary

Source	The start of a river: a mountain stream, a lake or an underground spring
Tributary	A smaller stream or river that joins with others to form a river
Confluence	The point at which tributaries meet
Upper course	The part of the river containing the source, tributaries and confluence. Often in highland regions
Middle course	The flatter part of a river
Lower course	The part of a river where it widens to meet the sea
Meander	A bend or curve in a river
Oxbow lake	A lake formed when a meander is cut off
Floodplain	The land to the sides of a river which is regularly flooded
Estuary	The mouth of a river, where the river meets the sea
Delta	Deposits of land in an estuary
Erosion	The wearing down of land
deposition	The setting down of stones, grit and sand by slow-moving water