

Rivers

What is a river?

Rivers are **channels** of fresh water which flow downhill towards a lake or ocean. They start as tiny streams, high up in mountains or hills. Rivers are very important because plants, animals and humans need water to live.



As the water flows down a river, it wears away soil from the river bank and carries it downstream. Some rivers might turn a corner or look like they are making the shape of a snake. This is called a **meander**. As the river travels further down hill, it gets wider and even slower.

What are rivers used for?

Water from rivers is used for washing, cooking and drinking. Farmers use rivers to water their **crops**. **Barges** and boats use rivers to **transport** people and **cargo**. Rivers are homes to many plants and animals.

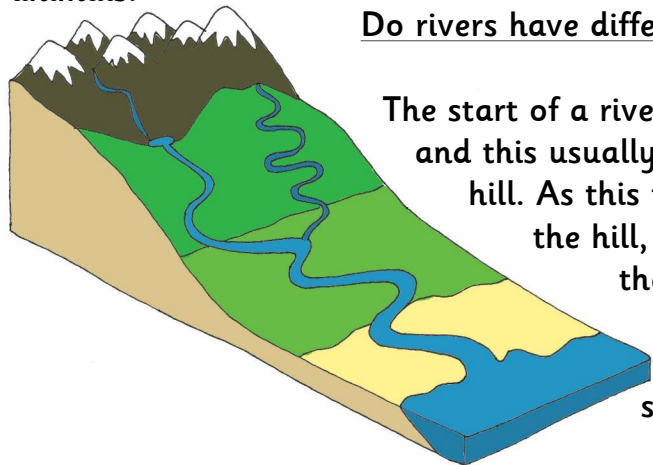


Almost at the bottom of the hill the river might **flood** because the land around it is flat. This part of the river is called a flood plain. The part of the river that opens out into the sea is called the mouth of the river and this is where the river's **journey** ends.



Do rivers have different parts?

The start of a river is called the **source** and this usually starts in a mountain or hill. As this tiny stream travels down the hill, it becomes bigger and the water flows more slowly. The stream is joined by other streams called **tributaries**.



Are there any famous rivers?

The Nile is the longest river in the world at 6695km long. It flows through Egypt in **addition** to some other African countries. Another famous river is the Amazon. This river is the widest in the world. The Thames River in London famously flows past the Houses of **Parliament** and Big Ben.

By **Cannie James**

Rivers – Follow-Up Work

Where does a river usually start? (AF2)

What is the name of the part of a river that joins the sea? (AF2)

How are all the subtitles the same? (AF4)

What is this '?' (AF4)

What is the writer's purpose? (AF6)

Do you live near a river? What is it called? (AF3)

Do you think that it would take a long time to sail down the Nile?
(AF3)

Why is it hard to get across the Amazon River? (AF3)

What helps you to find information quickly? (AF4)

How do the pictures help you understand the text? (AF7)
