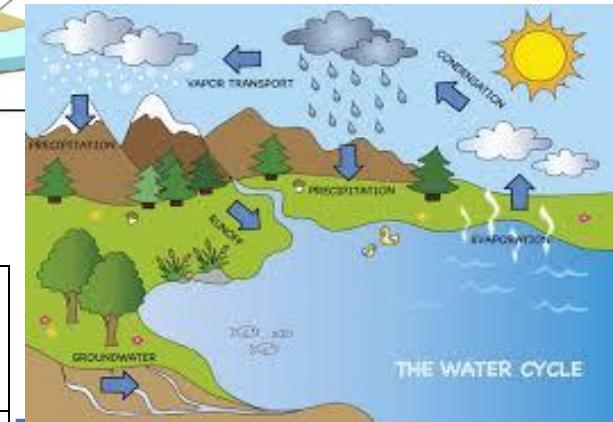
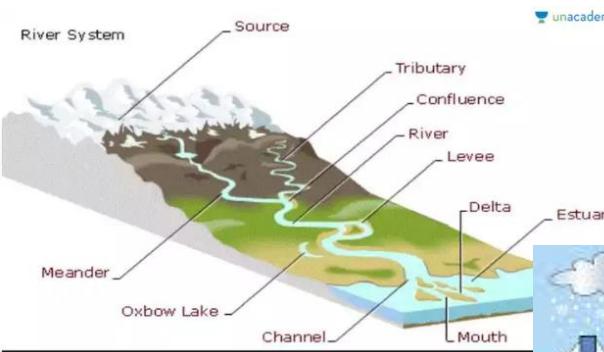


# Rivers and the water cycle: How does water go round and round?

## Important vocabulary for understanding rivers

<b>Bank</b>	The sides of a river channel. A river channel has two banks.
<b>Bed</b>	The bottom of a river channel
<b>Confluence</b>	When two or more bodies of water meet
<b>Delta</b>	A deposit of sand or mud
<b>Erosion</b>	The wearing away of the Earth's surface.
<b>Estuary</b>	The wide mouth of the river where it meets the sea
<b>Floodplain</b>	An area of flat land either side, likely to flood
<b>Gorge</b>	A narrow valley with steep, rocky walls located between hills or mountains
<b>Groundwater</b>	The rain that soaks into the ground
<b>Meander</b>	A bend or winding curve in a river
<b>Mouth</b>	The end of a river, where it enters a lake, sea or ocean.
<b>Rapids</b>	A fast-flowing and turbulent part of the course of a river
<b>Reservoir</b>	A lake created by humans for storing water
<b>River</b>	A flow of fresh water across the land into a lake, sea or ocean.
<b>Sea</b>	An area of salty water that covers much of the Earth's surface
<b>Source</b>	The beginning of a river
<b>Spring</b>	Groundwater that comes up to the surface
<b>Stream</b>	A small river
<b>Tributary</b>	A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river.
<b>Valley</b>	A low area of land between hills or mountains, typically with a river or stream flowing through it
<b>Waterfall</b>	A cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a steep incline



Rivers run through every continent of the world.  
Here are some of the world's major rivers.

Europe	Thames, Trent, Severn, Volga Rhine, Seine and Danube
Asia	Ganges and Yangtze
Africa	Nile and Congo
South America	Amazon and Panama
North America	Mississippi and Rio Grande
Australasia	Murray-Darling

## Important Vocabulary for The Water Cycle

- Evaporation** – when water changes from liquid to gas due to heat.
- Condensation** – when water vapour cools and turns into clouds.
- Precipitation** – rain, hail, sleet and snow that falls from the clouds.
- Collection** - when water that falls from the clouds, collects in the oceans, rivers, lakes, streams. Most will infiltrate soak into the ground and will collect as underground water.