

**Year 5 Home Learning
Week 7**

**How do rivers shape our
world?**



RIVERS

The Amazon river

Today we are going to investigate the journey of a river. We will look at where and how rivers start and the journey they take across the land to a larger body of water.



The Danube river

Where do rivers begin? How do rivers begin?

We are going to watch a short clip which explains how rivers can begin.

[BBC - Learning Zone Class Clips - Rivers and the water cycle - Geography Video](#)

The Ganges river

Clouds release their rain over the hills.



Most of this soaks into the ground to become **groundwater**.

Some groundwater comes to the surface to form **springs**.

Springs join together to make **streams**.

As the streams trickle down the hillside they join together, getting bigger as they go, until they become **rivers**.

How do rivers begin?

The journey of a river can be divided into three sections:

upper

middle

lower



The Yangtze river

The Upper Course

The upper course of a river starts at the source, this is where the river begins.

A river's journey - the upper course

Mountain

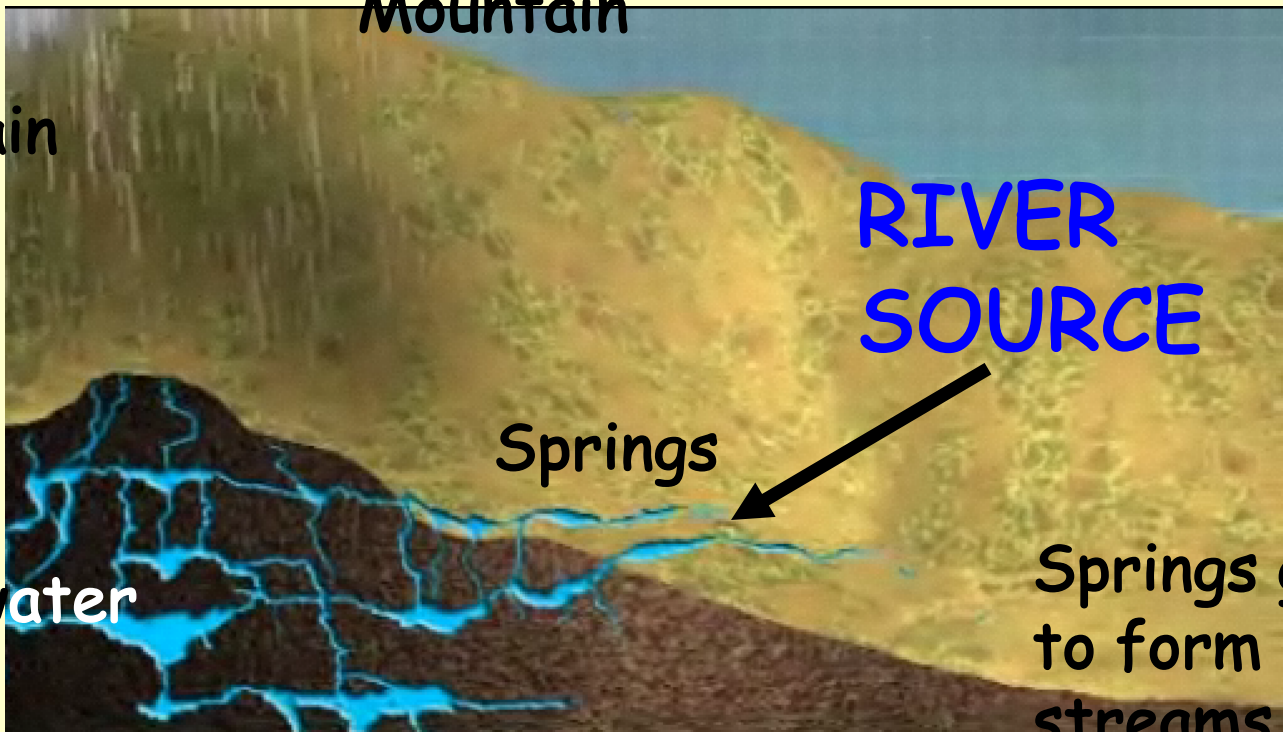
Rain

RIVER
SOURCE

Springs

Groundwater

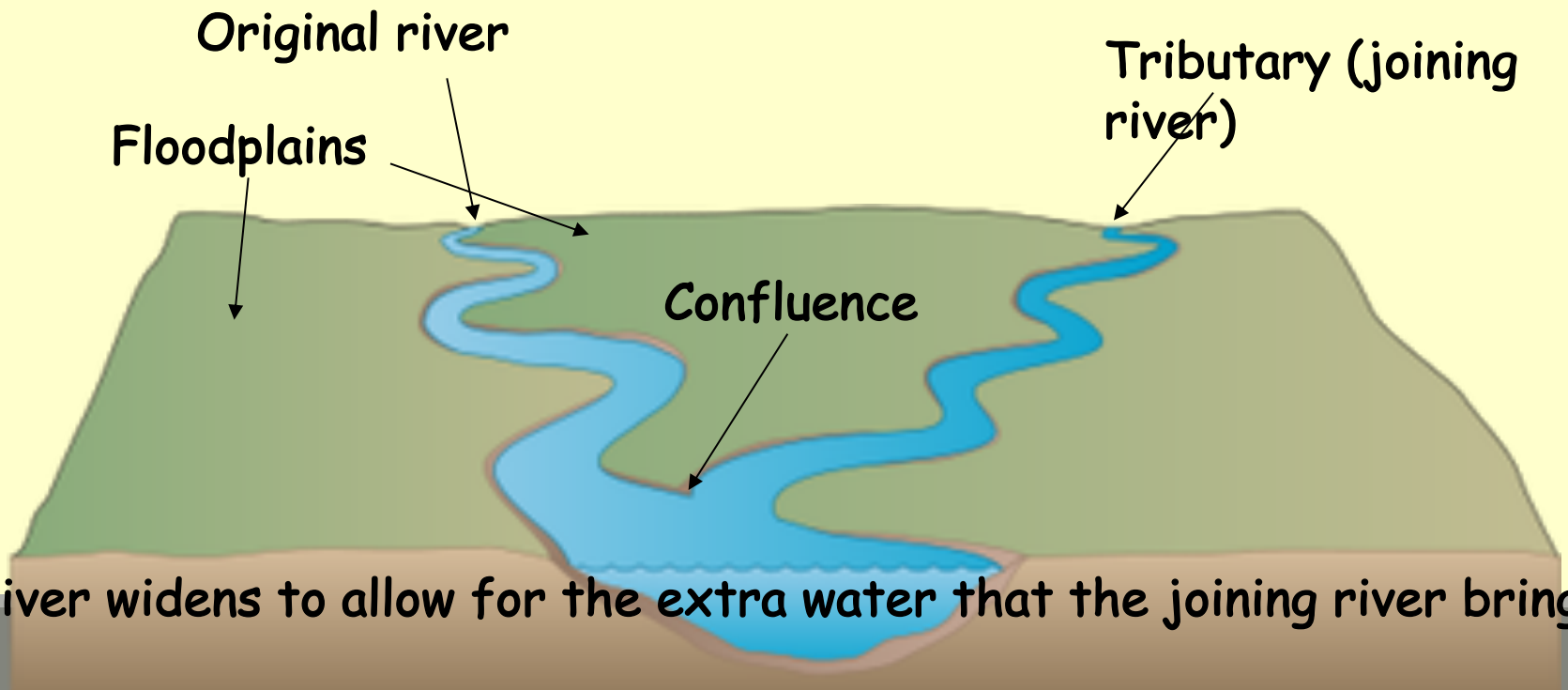
Springs go on
to form
streams



The Middle Course

On either side of the middle course of the river are **floodplains**, these areas are flat and often become flooded when heavy rainfall causes the river to overflow. Sometimes another river (a **tributary**) will join a river; the joining point is called a **confluence**.

[A river's journey - the middle course](#)



The river widens to allow for the extra water that the joining river brings.

The Middle Course – Meanders

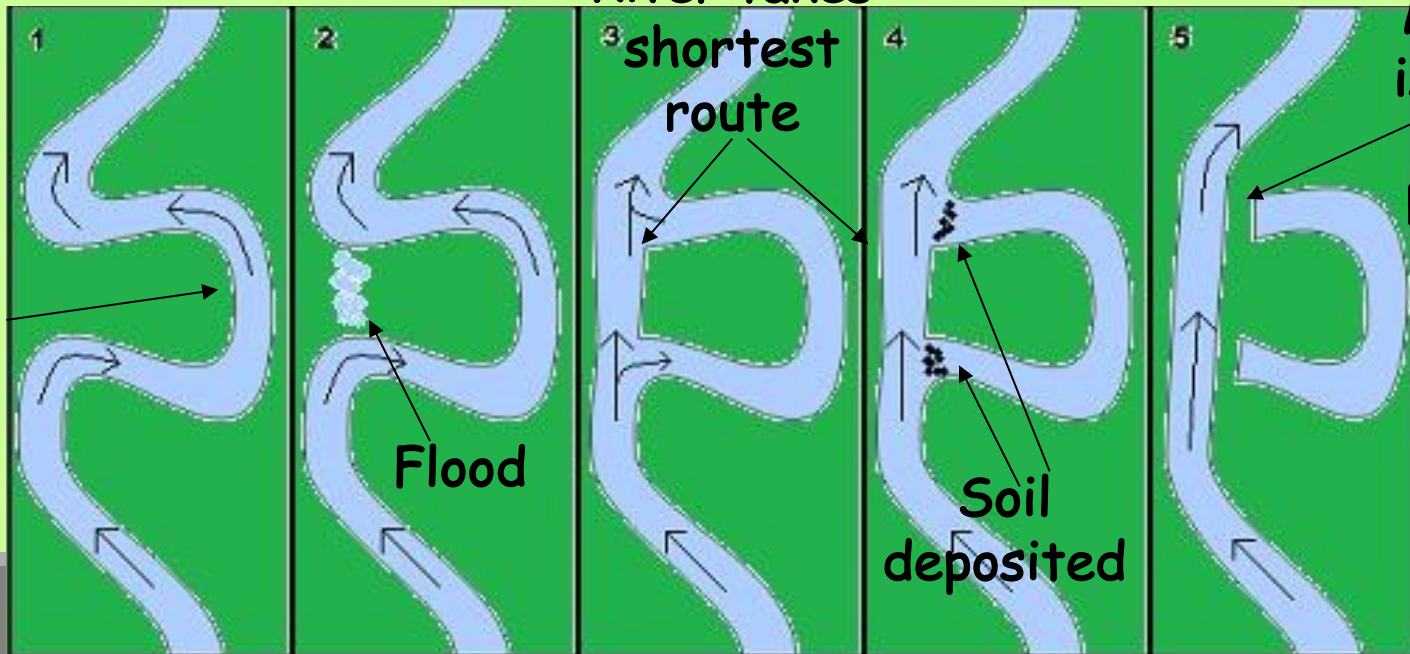
A meander is a large bend in the river. If a river floods, the neck of the meander becomes flooded and the river will take this route – rivers take the shortest route.



Over time the neck of the meander will become the new path of the river, soil will be deposited by the river and the meander will be cut off completely and end up forming an ox bow lake.

A river's journey - meanders & ox bow lakes

River takes



Meander

Flood

shortest route

Soil deposited

Meander is cut off and ox bow lake forms

The Lower Course

The lower course of the river leads to the mouth of the river; the mouth of the river is where the river meets the sea. The lower course of the river has larger meanders. The river has energy and so carries less material, it deposits the soil and other materials which eventually form small islands or deltas.

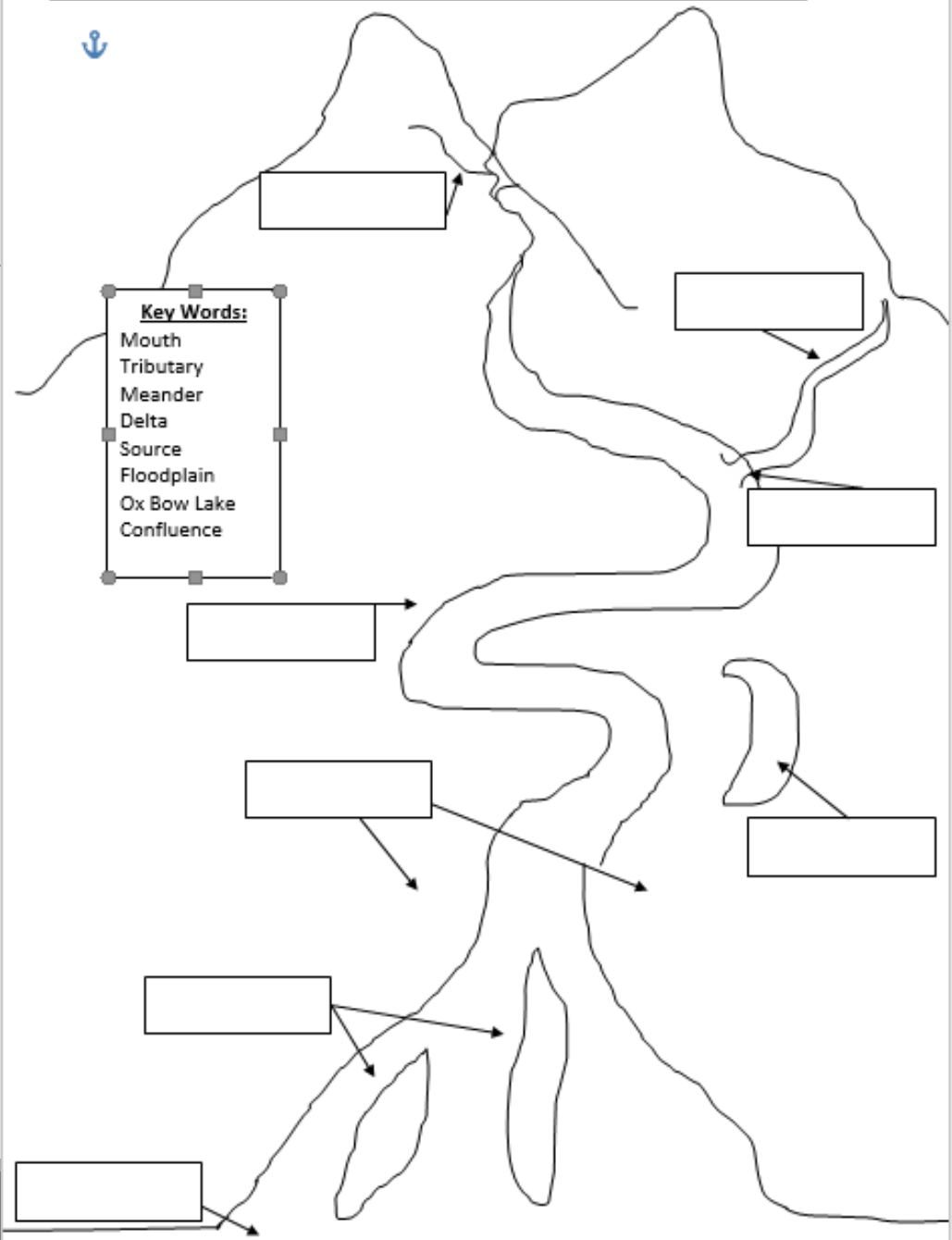
[A river's journey - the lower course](#)

[BBC - Learning Zone Class Clips - River Tay - lower course and estuary - Geography Video](#)



Complete this worksheet.

Year 5 Geography Home learning Week 6
Use the information in the PowerPoint to label this diagram.



- Key Words:**
- Mouth
 - Tributary
 - Meander
 - Delta
 - Source
 - Floodplain
 - Ox Bow Lake
 - Confluence

Key Words



Source – the beginning of a river.

Groundwater – rain that soaks into the ground.

Spring – groundwater that comes up to the surface.

Stream – a small river.

River – a large natural stream of water.

Floodplain – area of flat land either side, likely to flood.

Confluence – the point where a tributary joins a river.

Tributary – a stream or river that joins another river.

Meander – a bend in a river.

Ox bow lake – a lake created when a meander is cut off.

Mouth – the place where a river meets the sea.

Delta – a small island created by deposited material (soil).