



Geography

Raging Rivers

Features of a River



Aim

- I can describe the key features of a river system.

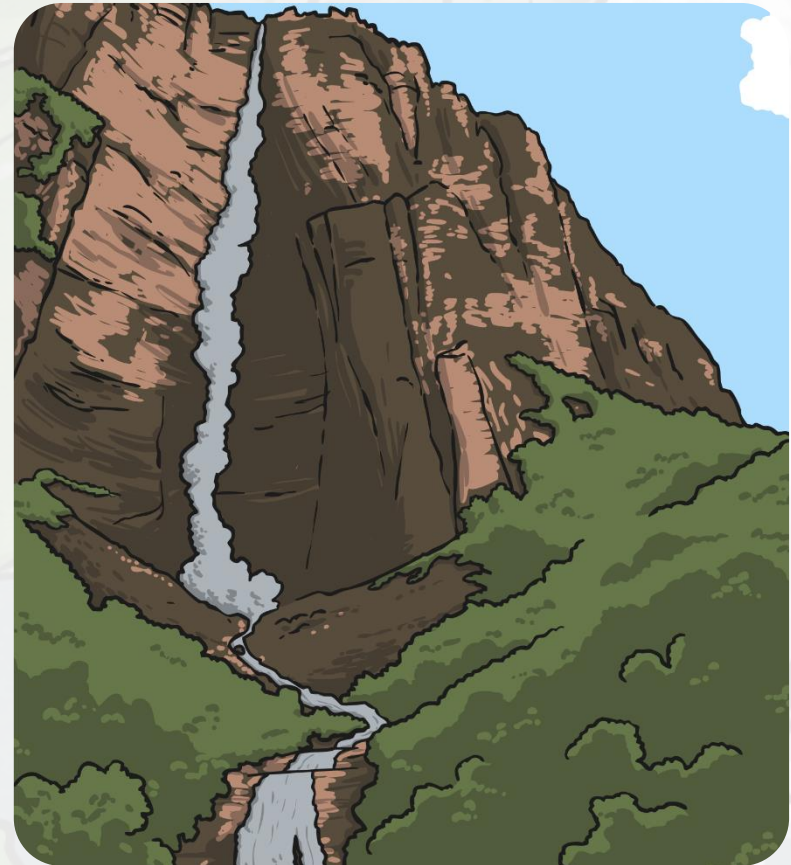
Success Criteria

- I can tell you some of the features of a river's upper course.
- I can tell you some of the features of a river's middle course.
- I can tell you some of the features of a river's lower course.
- I can compare the features of a river at different points along its course.

The Life of a River

Do you know what any of these words mean? Look up any that you don't.

- upper course
- middle course
- lower course
- valley
- channel
- waterfall
- rapids
- gorge
- meander
- tributary
- confluence
- floodplain
- levee
- delta
- estuary



The Life of a River

Rivers can be divided into three stages:

The Upper Course

Rain falling in highland areas flows downwards and collects in channels, forming a stream. As the stream continues to run downhill, it is joined by other streams and increases in size and speed. The point where two rivers join is called a confluence.

The Middle Course

As a river reaches its middle course, the fast flowing water causes erosion, which makes it deeper and wider. The river erodes left and right, forming horse-shoe like loops called meanders.

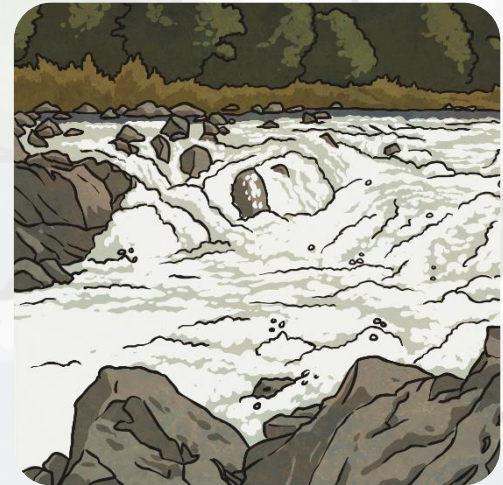
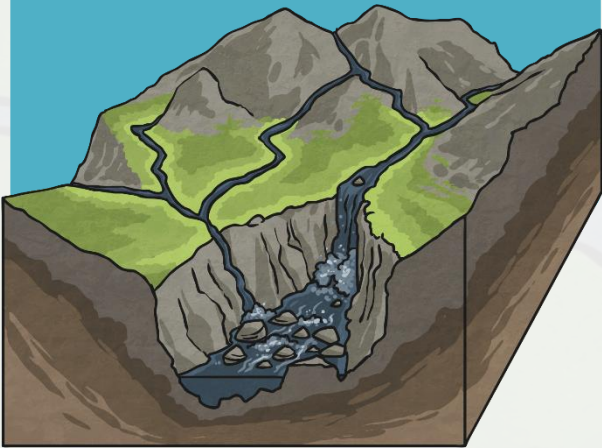
The Lower Course

In the lower course, a river is in flatland and flows slowly. The force of the water is lower than in the other stages, so the river deposits all the bits of eroded land it has been carrying with it.

The Upper Course

What is the river like along its upper course?

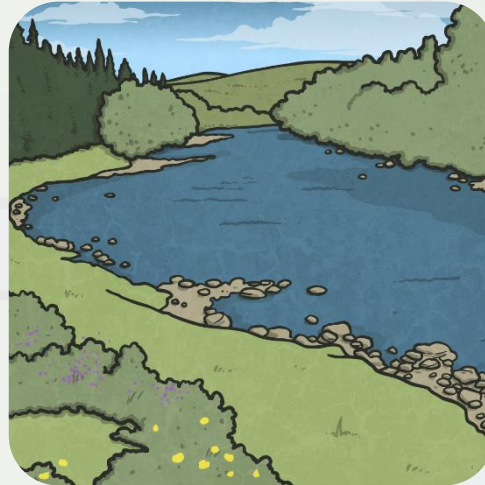
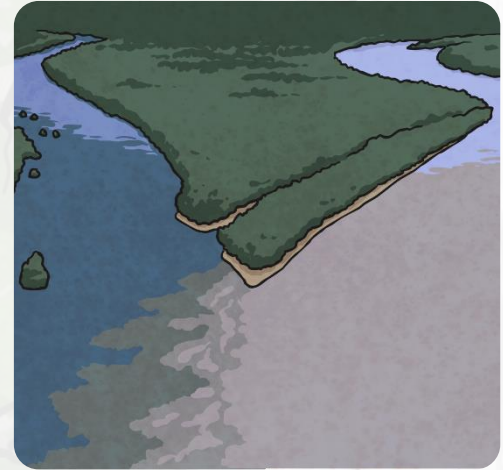
- Speed
- Features
- Valley shape
- Channel width



The Middle Course

What is the river like along its middle course?

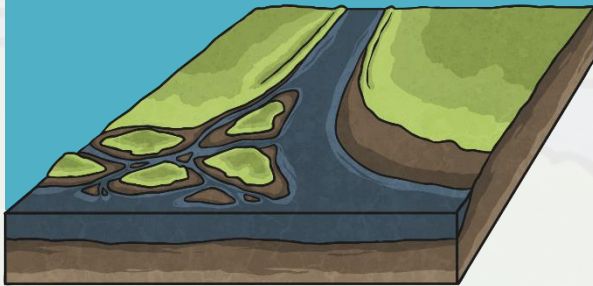
- Speed
- Features
- Valley shape
- Channel width



The Lower Course

What is the river like along its lower course?

- Speed
- Features
- Valley shape
- Channel width



River Features

Activity

Use the features of rivers vocabulary to label the river system.

Challenge: can you describe the river during the upper, middle and lower courses? How does it change?



Three overlapping worksheets titled "River Features" are shown. Each worksheet has a title, a star icon, a blank line for a name, and a diagram of a river system with arrows pointing to various features. The top worksheet has a star icon and a blank line. The middle worksheet has a star icon and a blank line. The bottom worksheet has three stars and a blank line. The diagrams show a river flowing from a source in the mountains down to a delta or estuary. The worksheets are arranged in a stack, with the top one partially obscured by the middle one, and the middle one partially obscured by the bottom one.

What's the River like There?

Where along a river's course might you find each feature? Copy the grid into your book, onto paper, or type.

Some words might go in more than one column!

Upper Course	Middle Course	Lower Course

- valley
- waterfall
- gorge
- tributary
- floodplain
- delta
- channel
- rapids
- meander
- confluence
- levee
- estuary

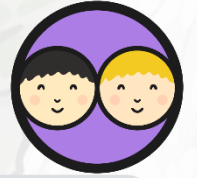
What's the River like There?

Answers

Upper Course	Middle Course	Lower Course
valley channel waterfall rapids gorge tributary confluence	valley channel tributary confluence meander	valley channel floodplain levee delta estuary

- valley
- channel
- waterfall
- rapids
- gorge
- meander
- tributary
- confluence
- floodplain
- levee
- delta
- estuary

The Life of a River



Extra Activity:

Can you write the life story of a river.

- Where might it be born?
- What kinds of places and events might it see along its life journey?
- Where does its life end?



