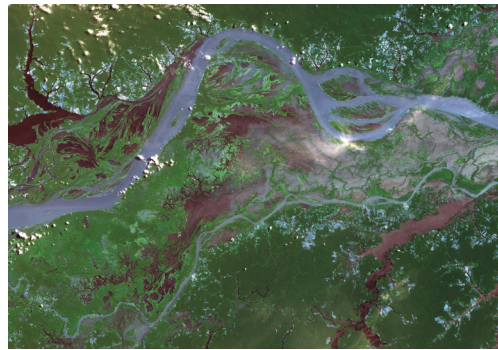


Lesson 1

Where are the major rivers of the world?



The River Nile from space



The Amazon River from space



The Amazon River from a plane



The River Nile from the river bank

The longest rivers

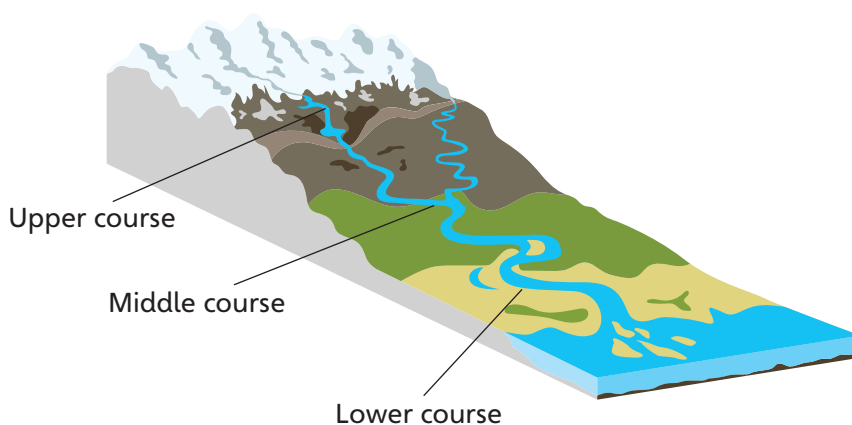
A river is a flow of fresh water that runs across the land and into the sea or a lake.

These photos show the world's two longest rivers: the Nile, which is in north-east Africa, and the Amazon, which is in the northern half of South America. They are both well over 6,000 kilometres long! The Thames is 346 kilometres.

The parts of a river

Rivers come in different shapes and sizes, but all rivers have a **source** (where they start) and a **mouth** (where they end). The river runs along its **channel**.

The channel has **banks** either side of it. The bottom of the channel is called the **river bed**.



- The source of a river is high up, in hills or mountains. This is in the upper course. The river channel here is narrow and shallow.
- In the middle course, the river channel is wider and deeper. The river flows quickly and has lots of energy.
- In the lower course, the river has a very wide, deep channel. There is a lot of water in the river channel. The mouth is where the river reaches the sea. When it meets the sea, the flow of the river stops.



1. What is the start of a river called? Write your answer.



2. What is the end of a river called? Write your answer.



3. Where is a river usually narrow and shallow?
Tick the correct answer.

The upper course ☐

The middle course ☐

The lower course ☐

Lesson 2

What are erosion, transportation and deposition?



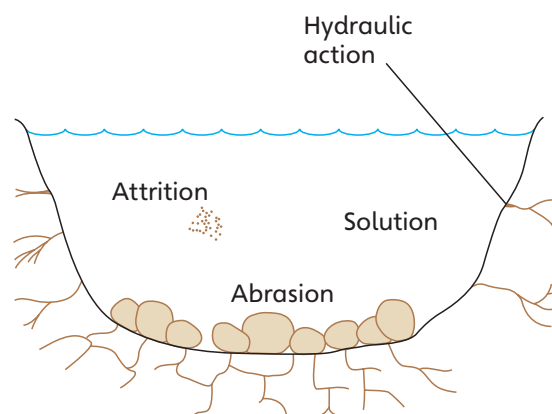
Quiz

1. What is the name for the start of a river? Tick the correct answer.
a. Start ☐ b. Source ☐ c. Mouth ☐ d. Tributary ☐
2. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
 - a. The upper course is where the river is widest and deepest. True ☐ False ☐
 - b. The middle course is where the source of the river is located. True ☐ False ☐
 - c. The lower course is where the mouth of the river is located. True ☐ False ☐
3. Name this river: it is 6,650 km long, its mouth is in Egypt and its sources are in Lake Tana and Lake Victoria. Write your answer.

4. Which one of these rivers is located in South America? Tick the correct answer.
a. Mekong ☐ b. Nile ☐ c. Amazon ☐ d. Congo ☐
5. One continent contains five of the world's ten longest rivers. Which continent is that? Tick the correct answer.
a. North America ☐ b. Asia ☐
c. South America ☐ d. Africa ☐

Erosion

Rivers wear away the land as they flow over it. This process is called **erosion**. This diagram shows four ways in which rivers erode land.



- I. Here are the four ways a river erodes the land. Match each description to the best summary words. Draw a line between them. One is done for you.

Ways that a river erodes the land

Description	Summary words
Attrition is when bits of rock crash together in the water and break up.	Acid attack
Abrasion is when bits of rock in the water rub against the riverbed and river banks.	Water power
Solution is when acids in the water dissolve rock.	Crashing and smashing
Hydraulic action is when the power of the water breaks bits off the riverbed and river banks.	Sandpaper rubbing

Lesson 3

Why is the Volga River important to people?



Quiz

1. Match each erosion key term with its description. Draw a line between them.

Key term
Attrition
Abrasion
Solution
Hydraulic action

Description
When acids in the water dissolve the rock.
When the power of the water breaks bits off the riverbed and river banks.
When bits of rock in the water rub against the riverbed and river banks.
When bits of rock crash together in the water and break up.

2. Match each transportation key term with its description. Draw a line between them.

Key term
Traction
Saltation
Suspension
Solution

Description
When bits of rock bounce and jump along the riverbed.
When the smallest bits of sediment are dissolved into the water and carried along.
When small particles of sediment are carried along in the flow of the river.
When large rocks are rolled along the riverbed.

About the Volga River

The Volga River is the longest river in Europe. It is 3,530 kilometres long. The Volga River is in one country: Russia.

The Volga River is often called 'Mother Volga' by Russians. Without the Volga, they say, there would be no Russia.

- Half of all Russia's farming takes place along the Volga.
- Nearly half of all the Russian people live near the Volga.



1. Which city is nearest the source of the Volga River? (It is the capital city of Russia.) Write your answer.



2. Which sea does the Volga River flow into? Write your answer.



3. Which city is nearest the mouth of the Volga River? Write your answer.

Uses of the Volga River

Floods and farming

A **flood** is when a river's water spills out over its banks and spreads out over the surrounding area. The river water deposits the sediment it was transporting. The sediment makes soil fertile which is good for farming. That is why 50 per cent of all Russia's farming takes place along the Volga.

Floods can also be harmful. Sometimes, when there is a lot of rain, large floods happen. Houses can flood. Farm animals can drown. People can drown.