

A Rivers, from Mountains to the Sea

The Water Cycle

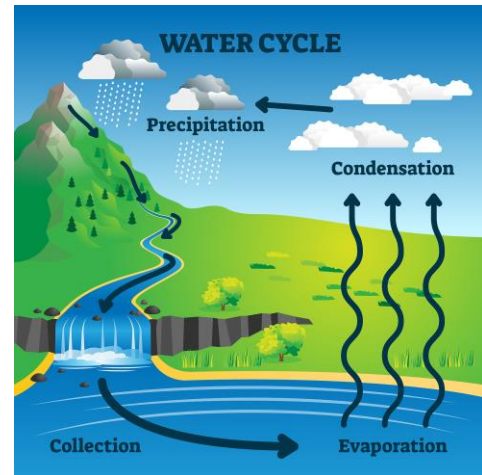
Evaporation – heat from the sun causes water to evaporate from the earth. It collects in the sky to form clouds.

Condensation – As water vapour in the clouds cools down it becomes water again.

Precipitation – Water falls from the sky in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet.

Collection – Oceans and lakes collect water that has fallen. Water evaporates and the cycle continues.

Water is vital for all living things. Animals drink water, while plants take water up through their roots. Water never leaves the Earth, it simply moves around the water cycle. The water cycle follows the journey of water from oceans to clouds to rain to streams to rivers and back into the ocean.



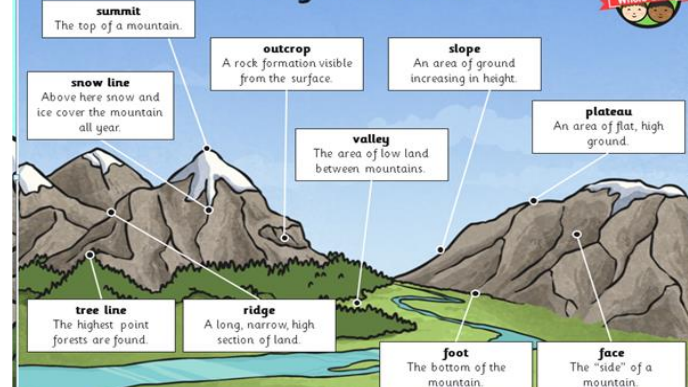
Mountains

Mountains are a landform that rises high above the surrounding terrain in a limited area. Mountains cover one fifth of the earth's surface and occur in 75% of the World's countries. The largest range of mountains is in the **Atlantic Ocean** (the Mid Atlantic Ridge). Some of the highest mountains are at the bottom of the sea. Hawaii is at the top of a volcanic mountain in the **Pacific Ocean**.

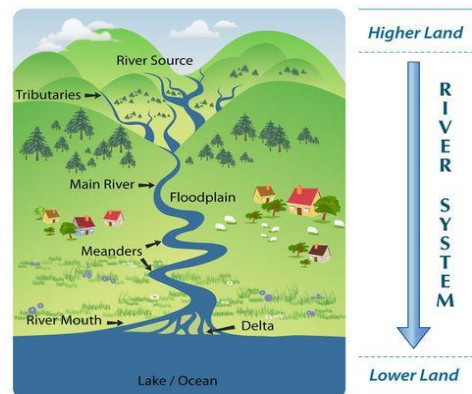
Rivers

Rivers begin at their **source** or **head**. In higher ground such as mountains where melted snow and rainwater collect and form tiny **streams**. When one stream meets another, it forms a smaller stream called a **tributary**. Many tributaries form a river. Most rivers flow to an **ocean, sea** or **lake**. Rivers also impact on the development of settlements as they provide many benefits.

Key Features



Features of a River



Amazon River	The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world. It is 6 miles wide at its widest point.	Mount Everest	Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It is in the Himalayas, on the borders of Nepal and China in Asia, and is 8848 metres high.
River Nile	The River Nile is the longest river in the world at 6650km long.	Mount Kilimanjaro	Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. It is a volcanic mountain that is 5895 metres high.
River Thames	The River Thames is 346km long making it the longest river in England.	Ben Nevis	Ben Nevis is in Scotland near the town of Fort William. It is the highest mountain in the UK, standing at 1345 metres above the sea.
River Tamar	The Tamar River forms the border between Devon and Cornwall. It is 98km long. It flows southward 6km from the North Cornwall coast to and meets the sea at Plymouth Sound.	Snowdon	Snowdon stands 1085 metres high and is the highest mountain in Wales. You can walk or take a train up to the summit.
River Severn	The Severn is the longest river in UK at about 354km. It forms the border between England and Wales and begins in the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales. Its mouth is the Severn estuary in the Bristol Channel.	Mount Fuji	Mount Fuji is an active volcano near Tokyo, Japan. It stands at 3776 metres high and is the highest mountain in Japan.