

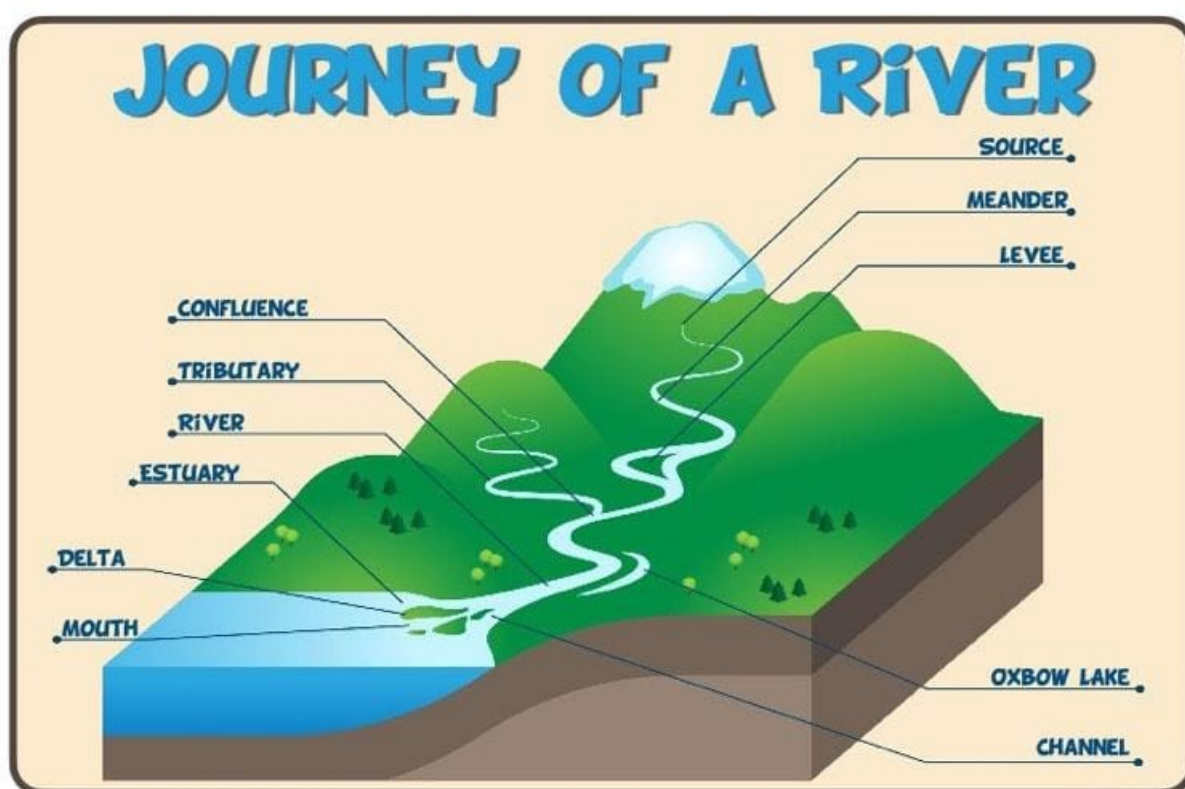
What is a river biome?

Biomes are areas of the planet that have a similar climate and landscape, where similar animals and plants live. A river biome is part of the aquatic biome. The aquatic biome is the largest biome on Earth and is split into two categories: freshwater and marine. A river is a freshwater biome. They are typically made up of runoff from different sources, such as melting glaciers or rainwater. This water trickles down into streams and rivers, and the streams and rivers eventually lead to lakes or the ocean.

Freshwater biomes are a crucial source of water for many species survival—including us!

There are lots of different aquatic species that live in freshwater habitats.

Vocabulary	Meaning
confluence	Where two rivers meet
estuary	The last section of the river before the sea
meander	A winding bend in the river
Flood defences	Structures such as dams, sandbags, barriers which are built to protect an area from flooding
River biome	A Freshwater aquatic biome made up of large amounts of plants and animals in water with less than 1% salt.
Source	This is where a river starts in a hilly, upland or mountainous area.
Tributary	A small river or stream that meets a large river



The Stages of the water cycle



Evaporation

- ◇ The Sun causes the water from the Earth to evaporate.
- ◇ This water evaporates from seas, lakes, streams and even puddles.
- ◇ When it evaporates, water turns into water vapour.

Condensation

- ◇ As the water vapour rises, it cools down.
- ◇ As it cools down, condensation happens and water vapour condenses to small droplets of water.
- ◇ Clouds are made from a mix of dry air and small droplets of water.

Precipitation:

- ◇ As condensation continues to happen, more droplets of water vapour are formed.
- ◇ When the droplets become heavy and large enough, they fall back to the Earth's surface in the form of rain or snow.,

Water then evaporates again and the water cycle begins again!

Some Key rivers in the UK



Severn = Britain's longest river (220 miles) from Wales to Bristol

Thames = London river that is 184 miles long

Avon = the 19th longest river in the United Kingdom, at 83 miles. It flows through Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset.

Biss = Runs through North Bradley and is a tributary of the River Avon.

What flood defences are there in the UK?

Fluvial flooding happens when a lot of rainwater falls over a period of time causing rivers to burst their banks.

Building dams and flood barriers, such as the Thames Barrier, London can prevent flooding in some areas.

However, blocking a river at one location can cause flooding further up or downstream.

The Thames Barrier—London



Flood barriers—
River Severn

How bad is sewage and pollution in our rivers?



83% of our rivers have evidence of high pollution from sewage and agriculture waste.

Last year, there were over 399,864 discharges of untreated sewage into UK rivers.

They not only cause unpleasant smells, but reduce oxygen levels in water which can affect all river species and cause lots of fish to die.

Today, only 14% of the UK's rivers are considered healthy to swim in.

When there is lots of rain, water companies are allowed to discharge overflow from their pipes into our rivers.