

Misty Mountain WINDING RIVER

A River's Journey

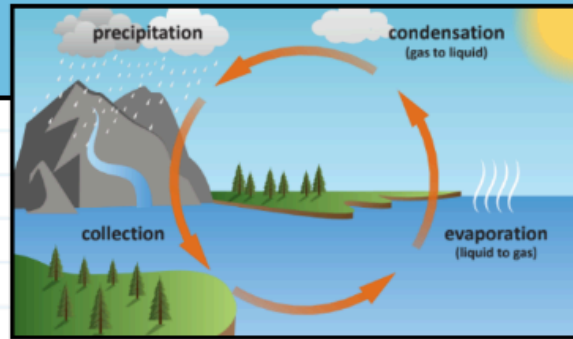
A river is a waterway that flows downhill, usually to the sea. Rivers start in high places like mountains and travel downhill collecting water along the way.

Parts of a River

The upper course is narrow and fast-moving. It cuts a V-shaped valley into the land.
The middle course is wider and slower. Here, bends in the river called meanders form.
The lower course is the widest part of the river. The land is flat, and the water flows into the ocean, emptying out at the river's mouth.

Special Features of a River

- **Floodplain:** This is a flat area of land next to a river that floods when the river overflows its banks.
- **Delta:** This is a triangular landmass that forms at the mouth of a river where sediment builds up over time.
- **Oxbow lake:** This is a curved lake that was once a meander in a river that got cut off from the main flow of water.



Mountains

A mountain is a large landform that rises high above the surrounding area. The highest point of a mountain is called its peak or summit.

Types of Mountains

- **Fold mountains:** These form when tectonic plates push together and the Earth's crust folds upwards.
- **Volcanic mountains:** These form when lava, ash, and gases erupt from the Earth's crust and cool.
- **Fault-block mountains:** These form when the Earth's crust breaks and one side is pushed up while the other side drops down.
- **Dome mountains:** These are formed when magma pushes up on the Earth's crust from below, but doesn't erupt.
- **Plateau mountains:** These are formed when large areas of land are lifted up by forces beneath the Earth's crust.

How Mountains Are Studied

Contour lines on maps show the shape of the land.

altitude	The height of an object or point above sea level.
altitudinal zone	One layer out of many that naturally occur in mountainous regions to form a particular habitat.
collection	The process of water gathering in oceans, rivers, lakes and streams after falling as precipitation.
condensation	The process of a gas or vapour cooling down and changing state into a liquid.
contaminate	The process of making something poisonous or less pure.
dredge	The clearing of the bed of an area of water by removing mud, weeds and rubbish.
evaporation	The process of a liquid heating up and changing state into a gas or vapour.
plate boundary	The place where two tectonic plates meet.
ridge	Long, narrow sections of rocky ground that connect mountains.
sediment	Very small pieces of sand, soil and stone that form through the process of erosion.
topography	The physical appearance of an area of land, especially relating to its shape and surface.

