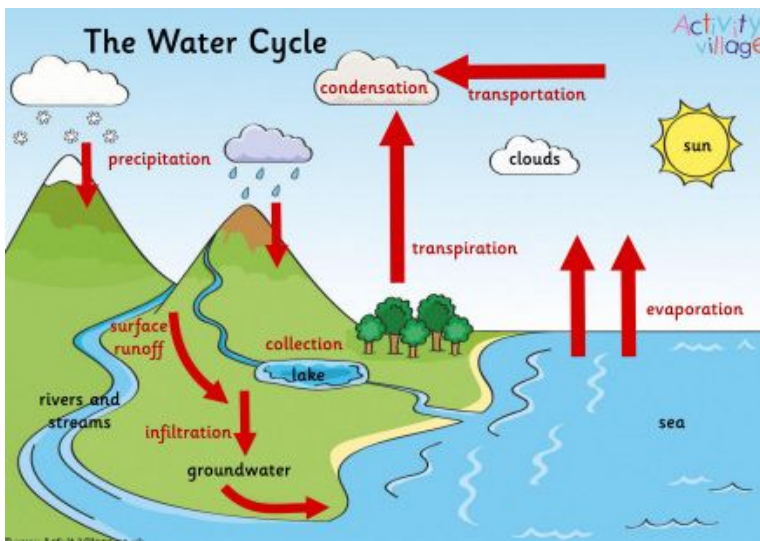


**Key vocabulary**

Bank - the land at the side of a river  
Brackish - a mix of saltwater and freshwater  
Channel - the path a river takes over the land  
Current - the movement or flow of water  
Deposition - the process where material is laid down in another area  
Erosion - the process where material is moved from one area and transported to another.  
Estuary - The area where the river meets the ocean, mixing fresh and saltwater together.  
Floodplain - The flat area next to a river that floods  
Meander - The bend or curve in a river.  
Mouth - Where the river ends - either at a sea, ocean or lake,  
Ox-bow lake - A meander that was cut off from a river  
River bed - The bottom of a river.  
Sediment - A mixture of soil and rock (all small particles)  
Source - The start of a river  
Transportation - Where eroded material is moved downstream by the flowing water  
Tributary - A smaller river that flows into a main river

**The Water Cycle**



**An introduction to Rivers**

All rivers start at the highest point in an area. As the river flows downstream, it gains more water from other streams, rivers, springs, added rainfall, and other water sources.

**What is a river?** - A river is freshwater flowing across the land, usually to the sea.

**The River Channel** - Rivers flow in channels. The bottom of the channel is the bed and the sides of the channel are the banks.

**Where do rivers begin?** - Rivers begin at their source in higher ground such as mountains or hills, where rainwater or melting snow forms tiny streams..

**How are rivers formed?** - When one stream meets another and they merge together, the smaller stream is known as a tributary. It takes many tributary streams to form a river.

**The Journey of a River**

