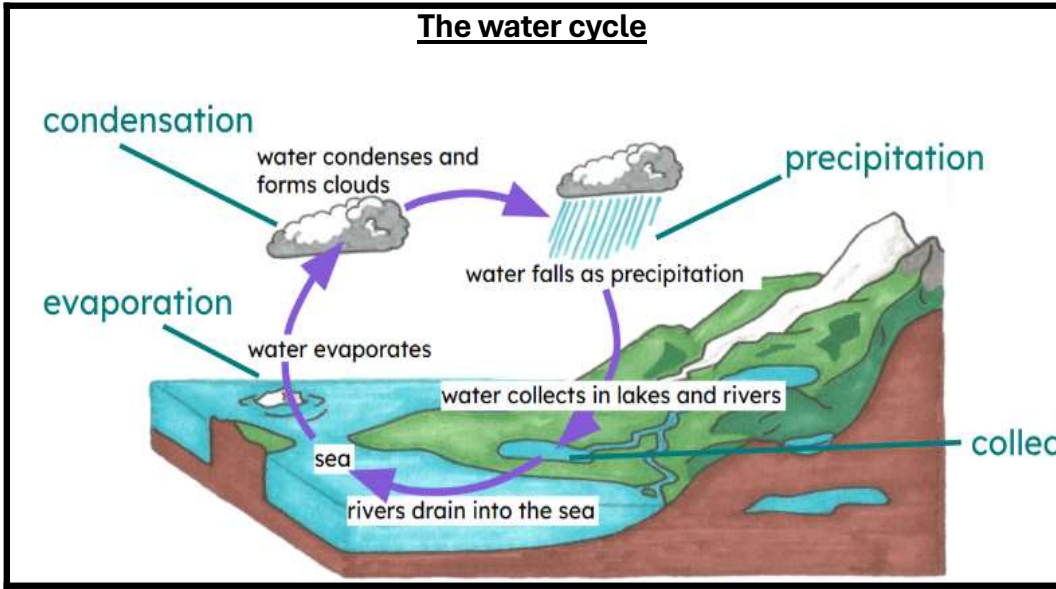


Geography: Rivers and the Water Cycle

Key Vocabulary	
channel	A length of water that joins two larger areas of water.
course	The specific path a river takes.
downstream	The direction that a river flows.
erosion	The wearing away of land by forces such as water, wind and ice.
floodplain	The flat area around a river that often gets flooded when the level of water in the river is too high.
meander	A winding curve or bend in a river.
mouth	Where the river opens out into the sea.
river	A large, natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.
source	The start of a river. This could be a spring, lake, bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.
tributary	A stream that feeds into a large stream or river.

The journey and features of a river

The diagram illustrates the river's path from its **source** at the top to its **mouth** at the bottom. It is divided into three stages: **upper course**, **middle course**, and **lower course**. **Tributaries** are shown as smaller streams joining the main river. The **lower course** is noted as being **wider and deeper**. Below the diagram, a **floodplain** is shown as a flat area adjacent to the river. To the right, three boxes provide visual examples: a **waterfall** in the upper course, a **meander** in the middle and lower course, and a **floodplain** in the middle and lower course.



- Evaporation** happens when heat from the sun causes the liquid water in oceans, lakes, rivers to warm up and evaporate, filling the atmosphere with water vapour.
- As the air containing water vapour rises, it cools down and begins to turn back into small droplets of liquid in a process called **condensation**. Clouds are made when the droplets of water clump together.
- Water droplets in clouds grow bigger. These big water droplets then fall to the surface of Earth as **precipitation** in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.
- Precipitation falls into lakes, oceans or rivers where it is stored. This is called **collection**.
- The liquid water then evaporates, and the water cycle **starts all over again**.

The River Mersey

Physical features	Human features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source: the Pennines. Formed of two rivers: Tame and Goyt. 70 miles long. Travels west from Stockport to the Irish Sea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ferry Tunnel Albert Dock Shipbuilding Manchester Ship Canal Liverpool skyline Tourism