



# Rivers

## The River Thames

### Physical Features

Length: 346km (215 miles)  
 Area of floodplain: 896km<sup>2</sup>  
 Locks: 47  
 The source is a village called Kemble.

### Environmental Issues

In 1953 a storm pushed sea water into the mouth of the Thames. Sewers were discharged into the river. Diseases in the river killed many people.

### Transport

Every 20 minutes a boat picks up passengers on the Thames. Boats are used to export goods. Walkers use the River Thames, along with canal boats and tourist boats.

### History

The river was used for fishing. The first bridge was located where the current London Bridge stands. The river used to be a tributary of the river Rhine. Pre 19<sup>th</sup> century, the river sometimes froze during cold weather.

## The River Nile

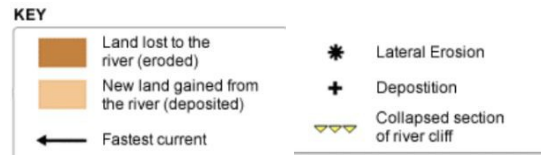
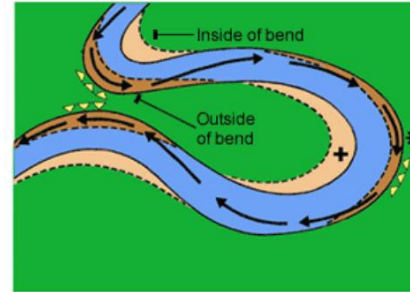
### How do people use the water from the River Nile?

The water from the River Nile is used for agriculture (feeding and growing crops) and for transport. Rituals are performed near the Nile, because locals believe that the water is Sacred. The river is also used for cleaning and religious cleansing.

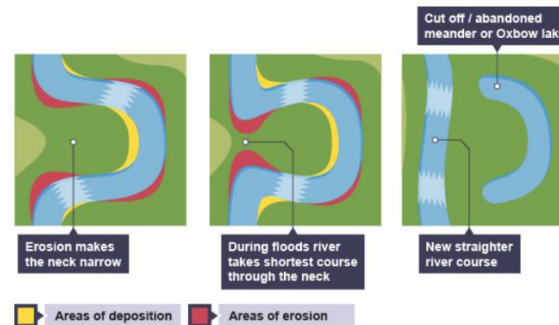
### How does the River Nile affect agriculture?

The water enriches the soil, which makes it good for growing crops such as cotton. The water is also used to feed the animals.

## How is a meander formed?



## How is an oxbow lake formed?



## Key Vocabulary

<b>Source</b>	The place where the river begins.
<b>Mouth</b>	The place where a river enters a lake, larger river, or the ocean is called its mouth.
<b>Delta</b>	Deltas form as rivers empty their water and sediment into another body of water, such as an ocean, lake, or another river.
<b>Tributary</b>	A tributary is a freshwater stream that feeds into a larger stream, river or other body of water. The larger river is called the mainstem.
<b>Course</b>	There are three courses to a river - upper, middle and lower.
<b>Confluence</b>	A place where two rivers join and flow together.
<b>Waterfall</b>	A steep drop in a river.
<b>Meander</b>	A bend in the river.
<b>Flood-plain</b>	An area of low-lying land next to a river which is prone to flooding.
<b>Sediment</b>	Sediment is solid material that is moved and deposited in a new location. Sediment can consist of rocks and minerals, as well as the remains of plants and animals.
<b>Erosion</b>	The wearing away of pieces of rock, soil or other solid materials.
<b>Oxbow-lake</b>	A curved lake formed from a horseshoe bend in a river where the main stream has cut across the narrow end and no longer flows around the loop of the bend.