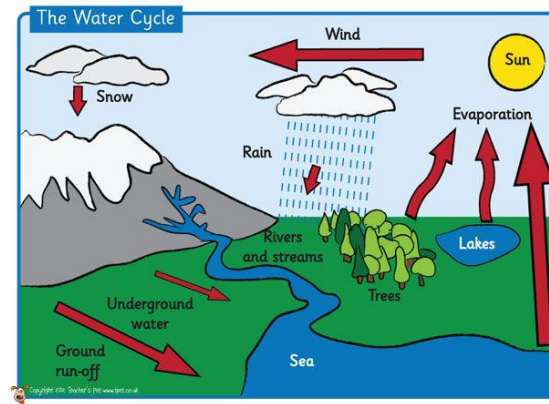


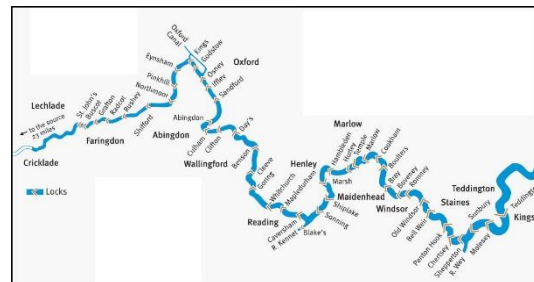
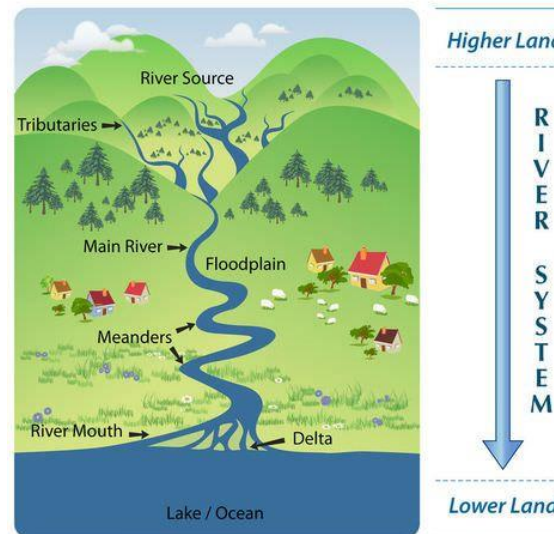
HOW DOES WATER GO ROUND AND ROUND? RIVERS AND THE WATER CYCLE

Key Vocabulary

Evaporation	Water becoming a gas (water vapour)
Condensation	Water vapour returning to a liquid
Water cycle	The process by which water is naturally recycled.
Percolation	The downward movement of water through the ground
Infiltration	Water going into soil
Source	The place where a river begins
Estuary	The place where a river meets the sea
Confluence	The meeting of two or more rivers
Meander	Where the river bends (usually in its middle course)
Tributary	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake
River basin	An area of land that drains into a river and its tributaries.
Glacier	A slowly moving mass or river of ice
Erosion	Erosion is the process that wears away the river bed and banks. Erosion also breaks up the rocks that are carried by the river



Features of a River



Key knowledge and understanding

- Wherever rainfall lands the water moves downhill.
- From a source a stream develops, it flows downhill, joins together with other streams; these eventually join to form a river. The streams are tributaries (think 'contribute') and where they join is called a confluence.
- As the water flows downhill it erodes a channel/valley and carries eroded material downstream. As the flow slows down on flatter land the material is deposited. The river might also wind around, forming meanders.
- Where a river joins the sea, possibly in an estuary, the water is brackish (salty) and the river is affected by tides.
- As glaciers move and rivers flow down mountains, they erode the landscape in to a V shape. Over many thousands of years, valleys are formed.
- The longest river in the UK is the Severn.
- The River Coln is a tributary of the Thames, which is the second longest UK river.
- The longest river in Europe is the Volga, in Russia.
- The longest river in the world is the Nile in Africa.

