



source

the beginning of a river

headwater

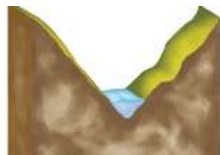
melting snow
rainwater runoff
groundwater overflowing
spring



Upper course

start

very fast-flowing water
narrow river **channel**
path water takes



V-shaped valleys

rivers cut through rock
erode riverbank and riverbed

waterfalls

rapids

hard rocks stick out of the river
cause fast-flowing and dangerous water

riverbed



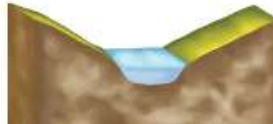
pebbles and rocks



Middle course

flatter, middle section of a river

river **channel** widens and deepens



meanders

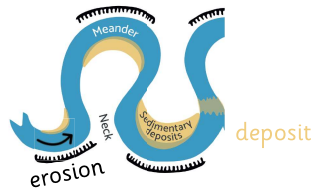
shaped bends in the river

caused by **deposition**

new sand and mud settle on the riverbed / bank

erosion

wearing away of riverbed and riverbank



riverbed



sand and mud



Lower course

lower, flatter ground with river flowing into and meeting a lake or the sea – **river mouth**



rivers widen

deposit **sediment**

mud and sand

floodplains

area around river covered in times of flood

riverbed



mostly mud

rivers of the United Kingdom

River Thames

London

River Taff

Cardiff

Water of Leith

Edinburgh

River Lagan

Belfast



Local

River Knowledge

River

your river stage
upper, middle, lower?

features

source

mouth

source
(headwater)

waterfall

rapids - rocks poking out of a river cause dangerous, fast-flowing water

river channel wide and deep

Middle course

floodplain
low flat ground covered in a flood

Upper course

tributary - smaller streams that flow into the river

meander - large river bend

Lower course

mouth