

Rivers

Fill in the blank spaces in the text using the words in the table.

Rivers are crucial to all life on Earth. They are an important part of the water _____, carrying fresh water back to the sea. Many animals and plants live in or near rivers and depend on them for survival. Rivers are also essential for humans. They provide _____ water and are used for transport, recreation and many industrial processes.

The beginning of the river is known as the source. Some rivers (including the River Thames in England) begin at a natural _____. This is where water flows out through a natural opening in the ground. Another common source for rivers is rainfall and melting _____ on mountains and hills such as the River Ganges in India, which is a source of water from is the Himalayas. Lakes can also be river sources. The Mississippi River in the USA starts in Lake Itasca in Minnesota.

Whatever its source, a river will flow _____, following the contours of the land. The direction in which the river flows is known as downstream. The opposite way, back towards the river's source, is _____. The force of the river can _____ the land and form a valley over thousands (or even millions) of years. The water in a river flows through a channel. The river bed is at the bottom of the channel, and the sides form the river banks. Eventually, most rivers empty into larger bodies of water, such as the _____.

Most rivers have tributaries. These are smaller streams and rivers that flow into the river. There are lots of names for smaller streams; _____, beck, burn, rill, creek and rindle are just a few of them. When two rivers of roughly equal size join together, it is known as a _____. For example, the Mosel and Rhine rivers form a confluence in Koblenz, Germany. Many rivers have _____ plains on either side, where excess water from the river can flow at times of flooding. The _____ that the river leaves behind this makes rich farming land.

drinking

upstream

brook

cycle

downhill

sea

spring

flood

silt

snow

erode

confluence



Rivers

Fill in the blank spaces in the text using the words in the table.

Rivers are crucial to all life on Earth. They are an important part of the water cycle, carrying fresh water back to the sea. Many animals and plants live in or near rivers and depend on them for survival. Rivers are also essential for humans. They provide drinking water and are used for transport, recreation and many industrial processes.

The beginning of the river is known as the source. Some rivers (including the River Thames in England) begin at a natural spring. This is where water flows out through a natural opening in the ground. Another common source for rivers is rainfall and melting snow on mountains and hills such as the River Ganges in India, which is a source of water from is the Himalayas. Lakes can also be river sources. The Mississippi River in the USA starts in Lake Itasca in Minnesota.

Whatever its source, a river will flow downhill, following the contours of the land. The direction in which the river flows is known as downstream. The opposite way, back towards the river's source, is upstream. The force of the river can erode the land and form a valley over thousands (or even millions) of years. The water in a river flows through a channel. The river bed is at the bottom of the channel, and the sides form the river banks. Eventually, most rivers empty into larger bodies of water, such as the sea.

Most rivers have tributaries. These are smaller streams and rivers that flow into the river. There are lots of names for smaller streams; brook, beck, burn, rill, creek and rindle are just a few of them. When two rivers of roughly equal size join together, it is known as a confluence. For example, the Mosel and Rhine rivers form a confluence in Koblenz, Germany. Many rivers have flood plains on either side, where excess water from the river can flow at times of flooding. The silt that the river leaves behind this makes rich farming land.

drinking	upstream
brook	cycle
downhill	sea
spring	flood
silt	snow
erode	confluence

