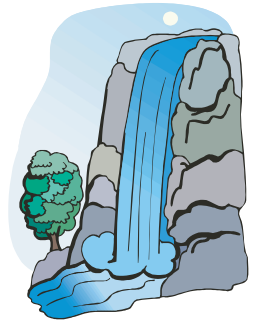




Rivers - glossary of terms



banks - these are the sides of a river that the water normally flows through.

brackish - this is a mixture of salt water and fresh water.

channel - this is the path that a river takes over land.

current - this is the movement or flow of water.

delta - this is a large, silty area found at the mouth of a river. Deltas are often triangular shaped.

deposition - this is where material is laid down in another location.

erosion - this is the process where material is removed from one area and transported to another.

estuary - this is the area where a river meets the ocean or sea, causing fresh and salt water to mix together.

floodplain - this is the flat area next to a river that floods.

meander - this is a bend or curve in a river.

mouth - this is where a river ends, either in the ocean, sea or lake.

ox-bow lake - this is a meander that was cut off from a river and abandoned.

plunge pool - this is a deep pool below a waterfall.

rapid - this is when a river flows quickly and the currents swirl around.

reservoir - this is a man-made structure that stores fresh water for human use.

river - this is a large body of water that usually empties into an ocean or sea.

river bed - this is the bottom of a river.

sediment - this is a mixture of small particles of soil and rock.

source - this is the beginning (start) of a river.

transportation - this is where eroded material is moved downstream by the flowing water.

tributary - this is a smaller river that flows into a main river.

waterfall - this is a sudden drop in a river where the river meets softer rock lying over harder rock.