

Subject	Geography
Unit	Year 8 - Rivers

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Precipitation	When water falls from the sky as rain, snow, sleet or hail.
Transpiration	When water is lost from the leaves of plants through their stomata (pores).
Channel flow	When water is carried away in the river channel to the sea.
Evaporation	Water droplets (a liquid) turning into water vapour (a gas).
Infiltration	When water moves downwards through the soil.
Percolation	When water moves downwards through the rock.
Through flow	When water flows through the soil to the river.
Groundwater flow	When water flows through the rocks to the river.
Surface runoff	When water flows over the surface of the land, to the river.
Interception	When water is held on the leaves of plants.
Surface storage	When water is held on the ground surface, as puddles or in reservoirs.
Soil storage	When water is held in the pores of the soil.
Groundwater storage	When water is held in the rock, below the soil.
Drainage basin	The area of land drained by a river.
Source	Where the river begins.
Mouth	Where the river meets the sea or a lake.
Tributary	A smaller river which joins a larger river.

Confluence	The point at which two rivers meet.
Watershed	The boundary between two drainage basins, marks by a ridge of high land.
Erosion	The wearing away of rock, stones and soil by rivers, waves, wind or glaciers.
Transportation	The process which moves material from one place to another.
Deposition	The dropping of material by either rivers, waves, wind or glaciers.
Hydraulic action	A process of erosion. The sheer force of the water hitting the river banks.
Attrition	A process of erosion. The breaking down of rock by them hitting together.
Abrasion	A process of erosion. The scraping away of material by rocks and sediment carried in the water.
Solution/corrosion	A process of erosion. The action of acid in the water to wear away rock.
Bedload	A process of transportation. When boulders roll along the river bed. They are too heavy for the water to pick up.
Saltation	A process of transportation. When sand bounces along the river bed.
Suspension	A process of transportation. When small particles like silt are carried above the riverbed in the water.
Solution	A process of transportation. Minerals are dissolved in the water and carried in the river flow.
Meander	A bend in the river.
Ox-bow lake	A horseshoe-shaped body of water.
Waterfall	A step in the river's course, caused by geology (rock type).
Gorge	A valley with vertical sides.
Impermeable	Water cannot soak into the ground.
Permeable	Water can soak into the ground.