

Rivers, Mountains and Coasts



Quick summary



- A river is a natural watercourse flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake, or another river.
- Rivers are part of a physical process called the water cycle.
- Rivers often begin in mountains, which is a landform that rises above the surrounding ground usually in the form of a peak.
- A mountain is generally steeper than a hill.
- Coastlines are where the edges of higher land meet the oceans or sea.



Physical features

- A river begins at a source (or more often several sources)
- These originate in mountains or mountain ranges.
- They flow downhill often spanning hundreds of kilometers.
- They end at the mouth which is normally at the coastline, meeting a sea or an ocean.



Human features

- Rivers are difficult and dangerous to cross.
- Cities and towns often develop where there are bridges to cross a river.



Physical processes

- Physical process shape landforms.
- The Earth's crust is split up into sections, like the cracked shell of an egg.
- The sections of the Earth's crust are called tectonic plates.
- There are three types of mountains: volcanic, fold and block.
- All three types are formed from plate tectonics.



Vocabulary

- Tributaries:** smaller streams that join a river.
Source: the start of a river.
Mouth: the end of a river.
Meanders: bends in a river.
Deltas: where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea.
Estuary: the part of a river that meets the sea.
Mountain ranges: series of mountains.
Summit/peak: the tops of mountains.



Location



Physical features



Human features



Diversity



Physical processes



Human processes



Techniques