From the Mountains to the Sea

A Journey Down Australia's Rivers

What We Will Learn

Today we are going to discover how water travels across the land.

- **Identify** the different parts of a river system.
- **Describe** how the landscape changes from high to low ground.
- **Explain** why rivers flow into the sea.

Key Words to Know

Source

River source: where a river begins, often in mountains.

Tributary

A small stream or river that flows into a larger one.

Mouth

River mouth

Erosion

When water wears away the rock and soil over time.

The Journey Begins: The Source

A river's **source**, often in **mountains** or **hills**, is where its journey begins. Water comes from **rain** and **melting snow**. Gravity then pulls this water downhill, starting its flow.

The Upper Course: Fast and Steep

When a river is near the mountains, the ground is very **steep**.

The water moves **very fast** because it is rushing downhill.

What does the water do here?

It has lots of energy! It cuts deep into the ground to create a **V-shaped valley**.

The water is often shallow but choppy and rough.

Where does a river start?

Answers on the next slide...

What do we call the place where a river begins?

1. The Mouth
2. The Source
3. The Sea
4. The Delta

Where does a river start?

What do we call the place where a river begins?

1. The Mouth
2. **The Source**
3. The Sea
4. The Delta

The Middle Course: Slowing Down

As the river leaves the mountains, the land becomes **flatter**.

The river begins to **widen** and gets deeper.

What changes here?

The water flows more **slowly**. It starts to wiggle or curve across the land. These curves are called **meanders**.

The river is now carrying water from little streams, called **tributaries**.

How Meanders Form

Fast Water

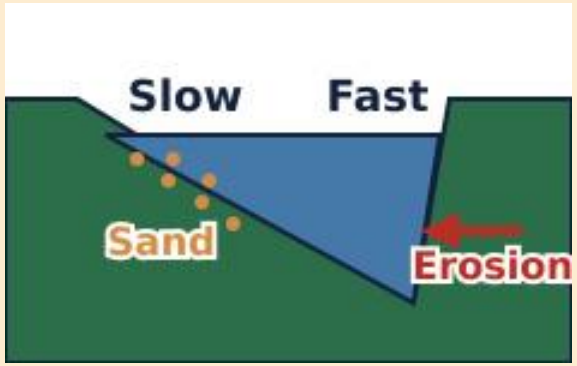
Water on the outside of a bend flows fast and erodes the bank.

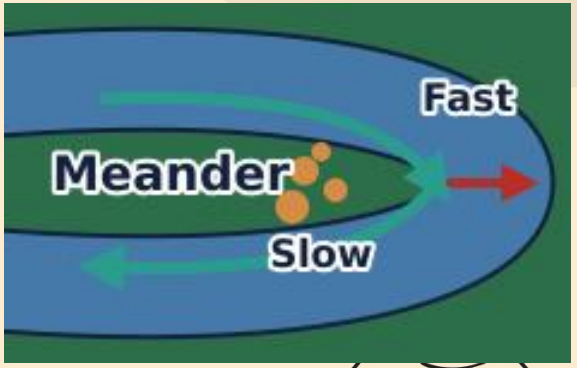
Slow Water

Water on the inside moves slowly and drops mud and sand.

The Curve

Over time, the bend becomes a bigger curve called a meander.





True or False ✅ ❌

Water flows faster in the middle course than in the mountains.

👍 TRUE

👎 FALSE

Answers on the next slide...

True or False ✅ ❌

Water flows faster in the middle course than in the mountains.

👎

FALSE

False! The water slows down in the middle course because the land is flatter and less steep.

The Lower Course: Wide and Flat

Finally, the river reaches very flat land near the coast.

It is now very **wide**, **deep**, and **slow**.

What happens here?

Because the water is moving so slowly, it drops all the dirt and sand it was carrying. This builds up new land at the sides.

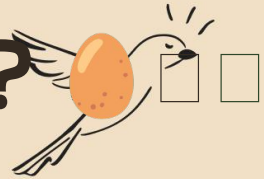
Sometimes the river splits into many channels before reaching the sea.

The Mouth and Mixing Waters

The river's journey ends at its **mouth**, where fresh river water mixes with salty sea water.

Sometimes the river drops so much mud that it forms new land shapes, like a **delta** or mud flats where birds love to visit.

Whats the right order?



Answers on the next slide...

Put the parts of a river in the correct order, from the start of the journey to the end.

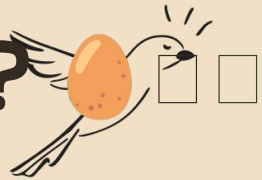
Middle Course

Source

Lower Course

Mouth

Whats the right order?



Put the parts of a river in the correct order, from the start of the journey to the end.

Mouth	1.
Lower Course	2.
Middle Course	3.
Source	4.

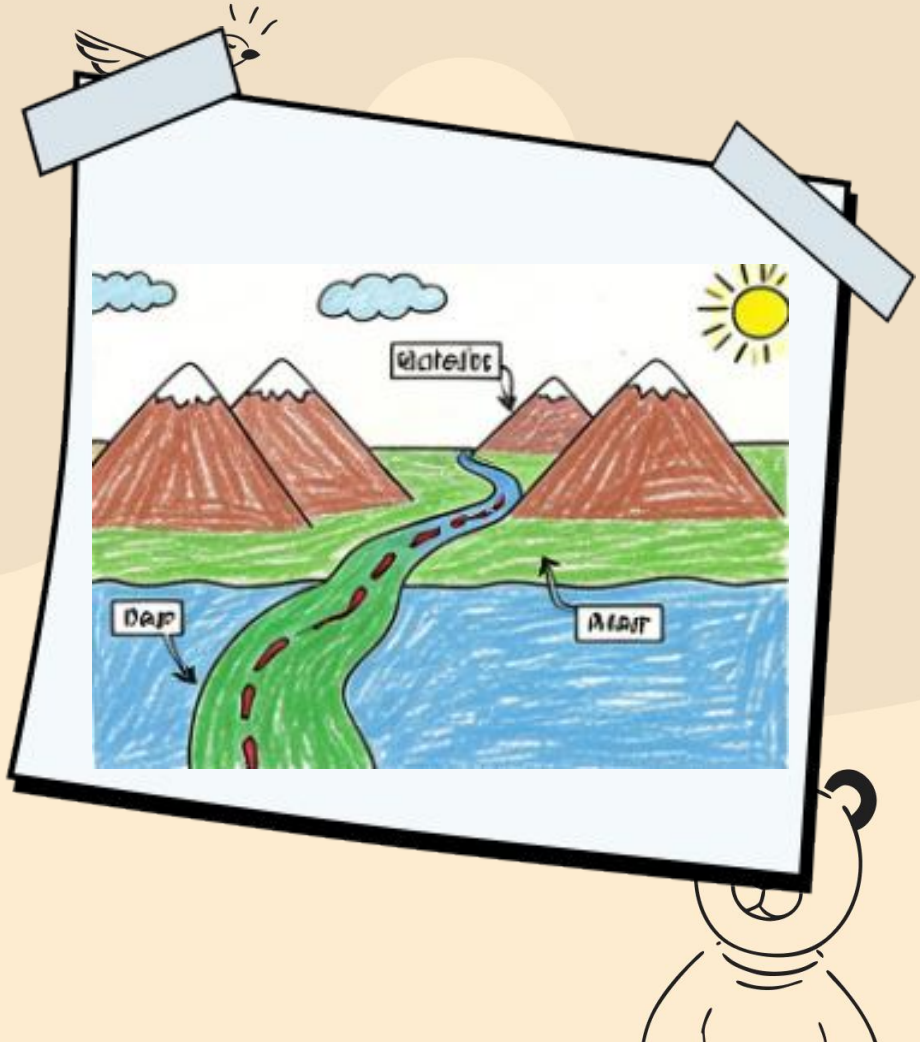
Get creative 🖼️

Draw Your Own River Map

Imagine you are a bird flying high above a river. Draw a map showing the whole journey from the mountains to the sea. Include labels for the Source, a Meander, and the Mouth.

What you'll need: 🎨 🖌️

Paper, pencils, textas or crayons



Summary

The River's Journey

Water flows from mountain peaks to the ocean.

- **Source:** Fast flow from high mountains.
- **Middle:** Wider, curving on flatter land.
- **Mouth:** Joins the salty sea.

Land shape dictates river flow!