

Rivers – Physical Features

Rivers are bodies of flowing water that travel across the land, shaping the landscape as they go. Every river begins at a point called the **source**, which is often found high up in mountains or hills where rainwater or melting snow collects.

From the source, water trickles into small streams. These streams join together, and smaller rivers called **tributaries** flow into the main river, making it larger and more powerful.

The river flows through a **channel** – the groove it has carved into the earth. The sides of this channel are the **banks**, and the floor is called the **bed**. As the river travels from hills to flatter land, it slows down and begins to bend. These bends are called **meanders**.

The place where a river meets the sea or a lake is called the **mouth**. Here the water slows right down and drops any material it has been carrying, sometimes forming a fan-shaped area called a **delta**.

Rivers are vital to life, providing water for animals, plants, and human settlements throughout history.

Questions

1. What is the source of a river?
2. Where is the source of a river usually found?
3. What are tributaries?
4. What is a channel?
5. What are the sides of a river channel called?
6. What is the floor of a river channel called?
7. What are the bends in a river called?
8. Where does a river slow down and begin to bend?
9. What is a delta?
10. Why do you think towns and cities throughout history have often been built near the mouths of rivers?



Text B Quiz



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