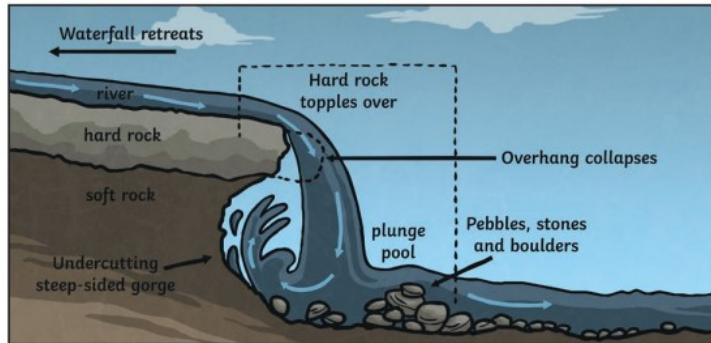




Umbrella question



How does the landscape change along the course of the Amazon River in South America?



Hinge questions

1. Where is the Amazon River?
2. What are the features of a river?
3. How does the landscape change from the river's source to the mouth?
4. How do humans use the Amazon River?
5. How can we make a difference to the health of a river?

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Source	The source of a river is the beginning or start of a river. It is typically found in highland or mountainous areas. For the Amazon River, its source is in the Andes Mountains in Peru.
Tributary	A tributary is a smaller stream or river that flows into a larger one. As the Amazon River travels through South America, it receives water from numerous tributaries, increasing its size and strength.
Main Course	The main course of a river refers to the primary section of the river where it is wide and deep. Along the Amazon, the main course runs through vast rainforests, expanding as more tributaries join in.
Floodplain	A floodplain is the flat land around a river that is prone to flooding. As the Amazon River travels through Brazil, it creates large floodplains that are rich in biodiversity and provide essential habitats for wildlife.
Mouth	The mouth of a river is where it flows into a sea, ocean, or another body of water. The Amazon River's mouth is at the Atlantic Ocean on the northeast coast of Brazil, where it forms a wide and complex delta.

The Course of a River

The Upper Course

Rain falling on high ground collects in **channels** and flows downwards forming a stream. Streams run downhill and join other streams, increasing in size and speed, forming a river. The river here flows quickly and the channel has steep sides and runs through **valleys**. Features include - waterfalls and rapids.

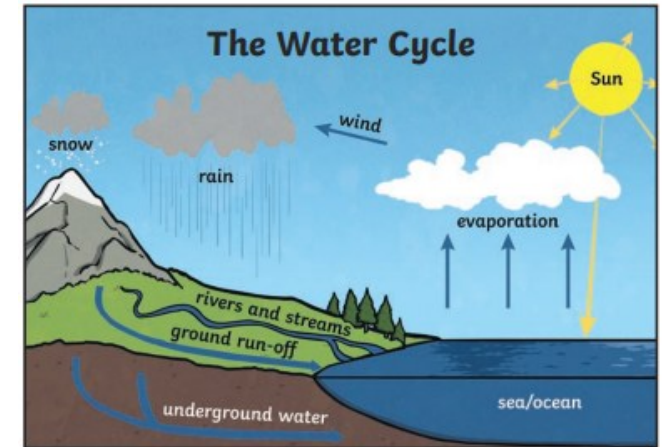
The Middle Course

Fast flowing water causes **erosion** making the river deeper and wider. Features include - meanders.



The Lower Course

Rivers flow with less force due to being on flat land. The river **deposits** the eroded material that it has carried. Riverbanks have shallower sides. Features include - floodplains, deltas and estuaries.



Key learning

Rivers are like nature's highways, carrying water across the land. They start their journey at the source, which is where the river begins, often in the mountains or hills. From there, the river follows its course, winding and weaving through different landscapes, sometimes rushing fast and other times moving slowly. Along the way, the river can change in size and shape, collecting water from rain and smaller streams. Finally, the river reaches its mouth, which is where it ends by flowing into a larger body of water like a sea or an ocean. Understanding these parts of a river's journey helps us learn about how rivers shape the world around us! The Amazon River is located in South America and is one of the longest rivers in the world.

Meander - a curve in the river



Eroded materials are carried by the river and released, building up the land on the inside of the bend where the water flows more slowly.

Oxbow lakes - a U-shaped lake



As meanders grow, two meanders can merge together through **erosion**. The water takes this newer, shorter course. The river **deposits** eroded materials which block off the old part of the river forming an oxbow lake.