

# Year 3 – Knowledge Organiser –River deep, mountain high!

## Mountains

A mountain is a landform that is higher than 600m. The highest mountain in the world is **Mount Everest** it is 8848 meters high and still growing!

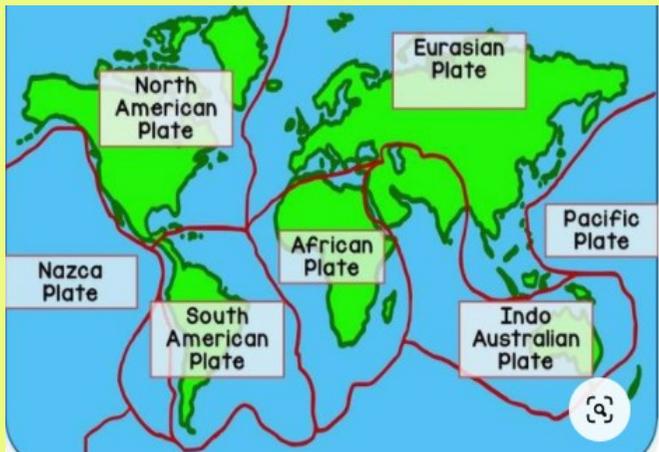
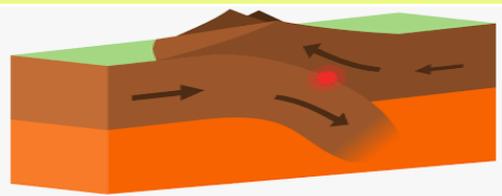
**Mount Everest** is part of a range of mountains called the **Himalayas** which is on the **continent of Asia**.



Mountains tend to have steep sloping sides with sharp or slightly rounded peaks. The highest mountains have snow and **glaciers** on the top of them.

Over half of the worlds fresh water originates from Mountains. All the worlds **major rivers** are fed from **mountain sources**.

Earth has a **crust** on its surface. The crust is in different sections called **Tectonic Plates**. These move and when they are **forced** against each other mountains are formed.

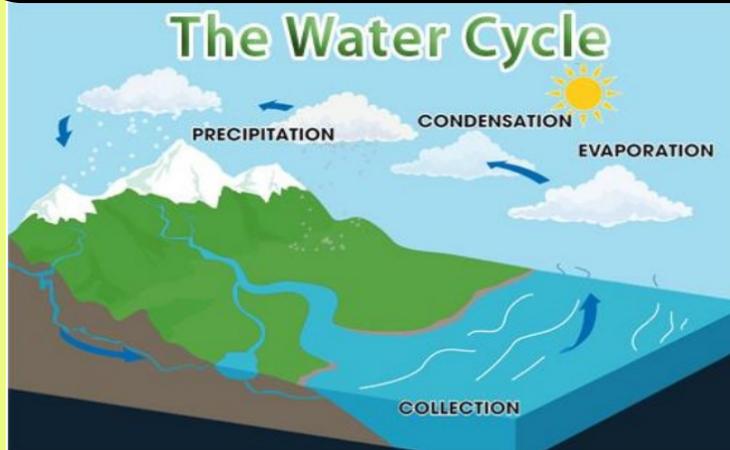


## Key Vocabulary

<b>Precipitation</b>	When water falls to the ground as rain, hail or snow.
<b>Condensation</b>	Water vapour cools and turns back into water droplets
<b>Evaporation</b>	When a liquid turns into vapour
<b>Tributary</b>	A stream or river that flows into another stream or river.
<b>Peak / Summit</b>	The very top of a mountain
<b>Erosion</b>	Gradual break down of rock by rivers, streams, sea or weather.
<b>Course</b>	The direction or route followed by a river
<b>Glacier</b>	Ice and snow that has not melted.
<b>Mountain ranges</b>	A small group of mountains is a mountain range.
<b>Tectonic plate</b>	Sections of the earths crust
<b>Estuary</b>	Where the river and the sea meets. Tends to be wide and flat

## The Water Cycle

The water cycle is the name given to the process where water in the sea, is heated by the sun and turns into a vapour (or gas) that moves up into the sky. It then cools and forms clouds. The clouds then form rain and snow which falls back down to earth for the cycle to start again.

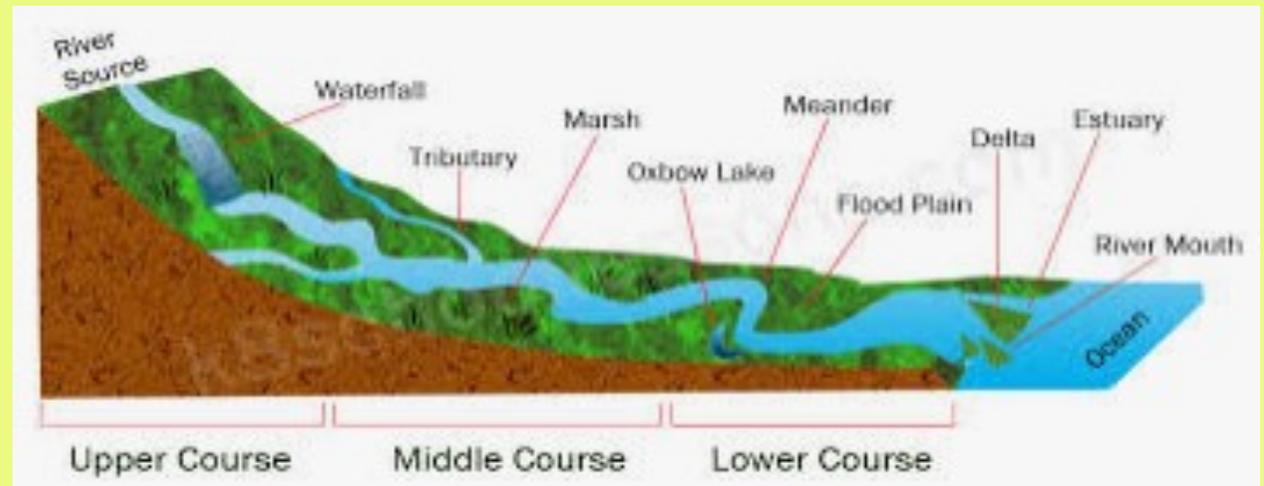


## The importance of water

Water is important for all life forms. All plants and animals need water to survive. Without water there would be no life on earth.

Water has always been an important aspect of where people live. In the past people needed to live near a water source not only to survive but to travel and to move goods around. Rivers and coastal areas were vital.

## Different courses of a River



### The Upper Course

All rivers have a **source**. Some rivers such as the River Thames start from an **underground spring**. Many larger rivers start from the top of mountains where the **snow melts** to form **streams**

The water flows quickly through the upper course and there are often **waterfalls**.

### The Middle Course

As the river passes through the middle course on lower less steep areas, it **slows**. Other small streams called **tributary's** join it and it starts to get wider.

Often the river starts to **meander** and from a winding path, A **riverbed** of sand and stone starts to form.

### The Lower Course

This is the **final stage** of the rivers journey. It is on the **flattest part** of land. The river runs at its **slowest** and often at its **widest**. It can leave **mud** and **silt** along its bed. This area is often called an **estuary**.

The river runs into the sea. This is called the **river mouth**.