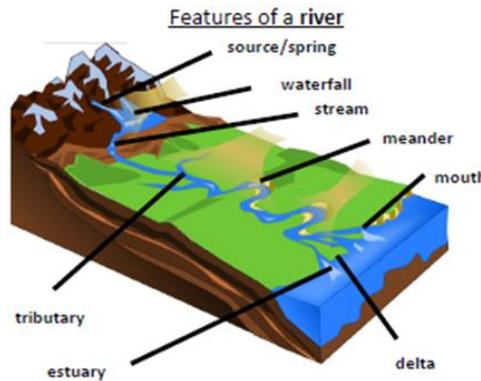


Important facts

- Oceans are very large areas of salt water that cover approximately two-thirds of the earth's surface.
- Seas are smaller areas of saltwater that separate the oceans and the land.
- Rivers are natural streams of fresh water that flow into seas, oceans and lakes.
- This water is used by plants to grow - when water from plant leaves evaporates back into the atmosphere, this is called transpiration.
- Water may also run off and enter oceans, seas and rivers.
- Water then evaporates again and the water cycle begins again!



Key Vocabulary

absorb	Soak up or take in
atmosphere	Layer of air or other gases around a planet
condensation	Small drops of water which form when water vapour or steam touches a cold surface
evaporation	Turn from a liquid into a gas e.g. steam from a kettle
gas	A form of matter. The molecules in gas are spread out widely and move around
groundwater	Water found underground. It has usually passed down through soil and become trapped by rocks
liquid	A form of matter. The molecules in liquid move around (liquid flows)
precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, dew - caused by condensation of water in atmosphere
runoff	Excess rain that cannot be absorbed by the ground
surface	The flat, top part of something or the outside of it.
transpiration	Evaporation of water from a plant's leaves stem or flower
water vapour	Water in a gaseous state e.g. steam

Evaporation:

The Sun causes the water from seas, lakes, streams and even puddles to evaporate. When it evaporates, water turns into water vapour.

Condensation:

As the water vapour rises, it cools down. Condensation then happens and water vapour condenses to small droplets of water. Clouds are made from a mix of dry air and small droplets of water.

Precipitation:

As condensation continues to happen, more droplets of water vapour are formed. When the droplets become heavy and large enough, they fall back to the Earth's surface in the form of rain or snow (precipitation).

Runoff and Transpiration:

As precipitation happens, water is absorbed into the soil.

