

Geography: Mountains and Rivers













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Key Vocabulary

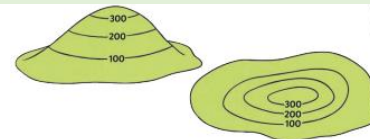
Altitude	the height above sea level
Avalanche	a large amount of snow that quickly moves down a mountain or slope
Crust	the outmost layer of the Earth
Gorges	a narrow valley with steep walls, found between hills or mountains
Hypothermia	a serious condition when the body gets too cold and can't warm itself up.
Lava	hot, liquid rock that flows from a volcano
Summit	the highest point of a mountain
Tectonic plate	pieces of the Earth's crust connected together.
Source	the beginning of a river sometimes known as its headwaters.
Tributary	a river or stream that feeds into another river, rather than ending in a lake
Watershed	the area of land that drains into a specific river.
Floodplain	an (often low-lying) area of land which becomes covered in water when a river overflows.
Channel	the path a river takes it's called its channel. A rivers course depends on the amount of water it holds, how long it has been flowing, and the types of rock that it flows over.
Riverbank	the land immediately along the river. The land is often fertile.
Confluence	the junction of two rivers.

General Knowledge

Fold mountains	Fault-block mountains	Volcanic mountains	Dome mountains	Plateau mountains
Tectonic plates collide and rock is pushed up.	Cracks in the earth's surface open up, some chunks of rock are pushed up, some down.	Formed around volcanoes and made of layers of ash and cooled lava.	Formed when magma is forced upwards but doesn't ever flow out of the crust.	Materials taken away through erosion leave deep valleys or gorges next to high cliffs.
				
				

Contour lines

- These lines on a map join land that is at the same height.
- They are usually marked in 5m or 10m intervals.
- The closer the lines are together, the steeper the slope will be.



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 rivers of the world

Amazon River	The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world. It is 6 miles wide at its widest point. It is located in South America .
River Thames	The River Thames is 346km long making it the longest river in England .
River Nile	The River Nile is the longest river in the world at 6650km long. It flows from south Africa to north Africa .

Dams

Dams are built to hold water back, usually in a reservoir.

Dams might be built to:

- control the flow of a river to prevent flooding.
- generate power

