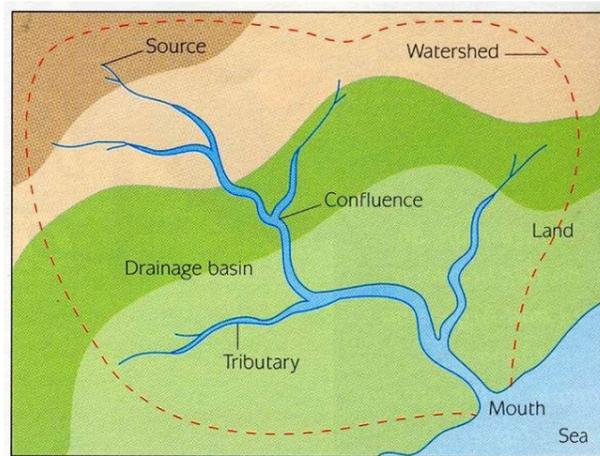
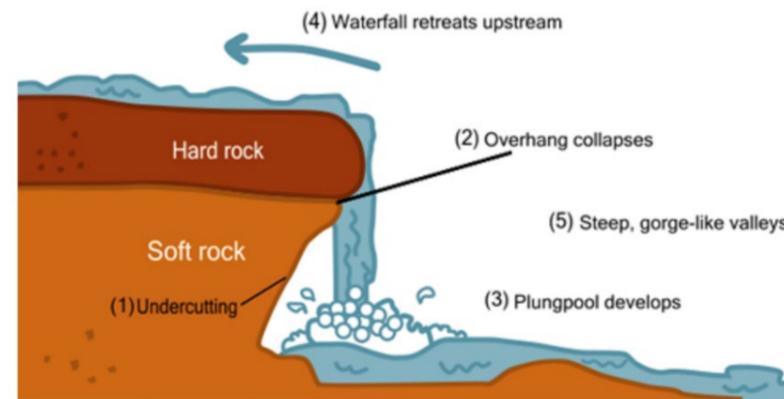


## Rivers – Drainage Basin, Upper Course & Middle Course Knowledge Organiser

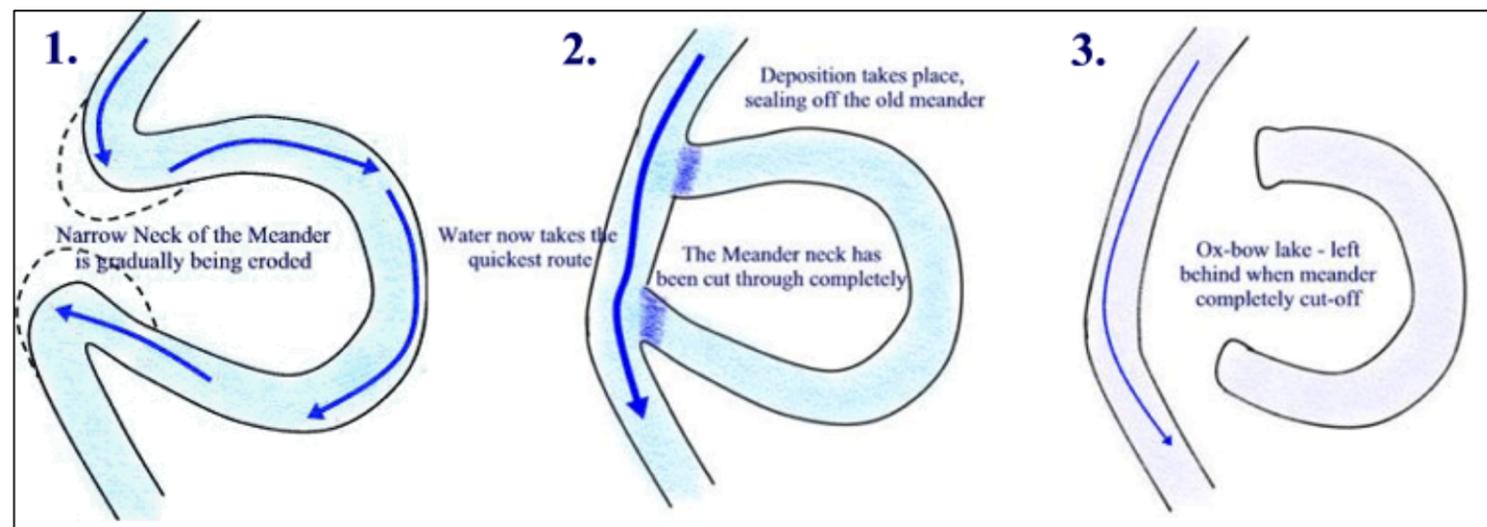
Key Term	Definition
<b>Abrasion</b>	rocks carried along a river wear down the river bed and banks
<b>Channel</b>	the main water course
<b>Confluence</b>	where a tributary joins a larger river
<b>Course</b>	the path of the river from its source to mouth
<b>Cross profile</b>	a cross section of a river channel or its valley
<b>Deposition</b>	occurs when material being transported by the sea is dropped due to the sea losing energy
<b>Drainage basin</b>	an area of land drained by a river and its tributaries
<b>Gorge</b>	a narrow steep-sided valley – often formed as a waterfall retreats upstream
<b>Gradient</b>	the height and angle of a slope
<b>Hydraulic action</b>	power of the water eroding the bed and banks of a river
<b>Lateral erosion</b>	erosion of river banks rather than the bed – helps to form the floodplain
<b>Load</b>	material transported by a river
<b>Long profile</b>	the gradient of a river, from its source to its mouth
<b>Meander</b>	a wide bend in a river
<b>Mouth</b>	the end of a river, usually where a river joins the sea
<b>Ox-bow lake</b>	an arc-shaped lake on a floodplain formed by a cut-off meander
<b>Plunge pool</b>	a deep and turbulent area of water where the river 'plunges' over a waterfall



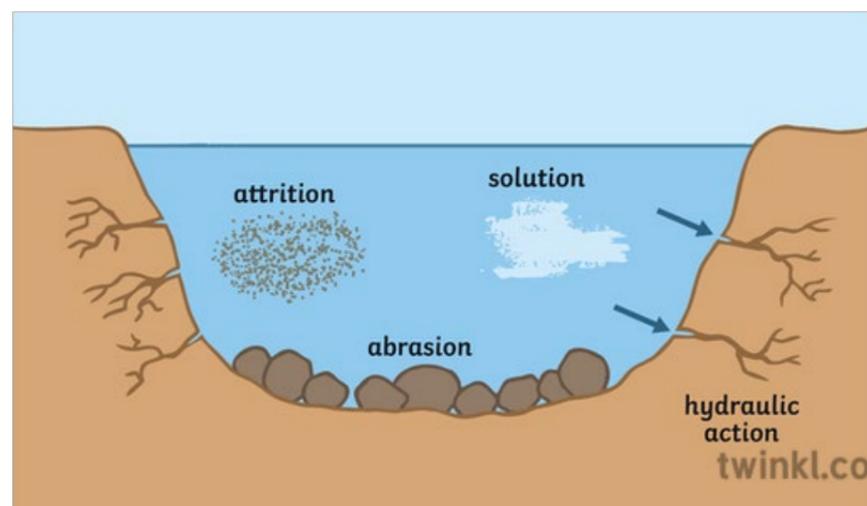
Drainage Basin



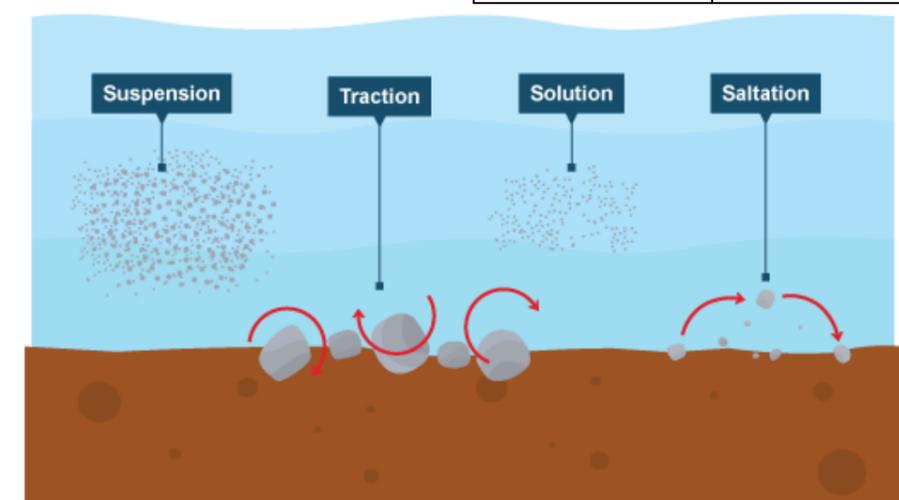
Waterfall Formation



Meander & Oxbow Lake Formation



Erosional Processes



Transportation Processes

Key Term	Definition
<b>Saltation</b>	hopping movement of pebbles along a river or sea bed
<b>Source</b>	the start of a river
<b>Suspension</b>	small particles carried in river flow or sea water, i.e. sands, silts and clays
<b>Thalweg</b>	the course of the fastest flow (velocity) within a river
<b>Traction</b>	where material is rolled along a river bed or by waves
<b>Transportation</b>	the movement of eroded material
<b>Tributary</b>	a small stream that joins a larger river
<b>Velocity</b>	speed of the river flow
<b>Vertical erosion</b>	downward erosion of the river bed
<b>V-shaped valley</b>	steep-sided valley
<b>Waterfall</b>	a step in the long profile of a river usually formed when a river crosses over a hard (resistant) band of rock
<b>Watershed</b>	the edge of the river basin