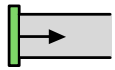




**A River from Source to Sea**

 **Widgit**

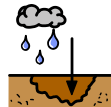
## Upper Section



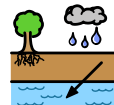
Rivers start in hills or mountains.



The start of the river is called its source.

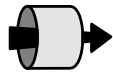


When rain falls some of it soaks into the soil.

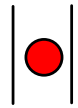


Then it is called groundwater.

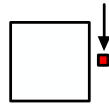
A River from Source to Sea - Supported



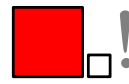
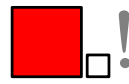
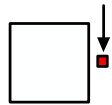
It trickles through spaces in sand and gravel.



The water also trickles between cracks in the rocks.

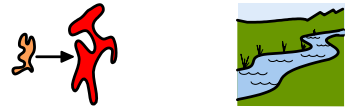


Eventually it makes tiny streams called rivulets.

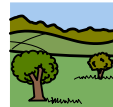
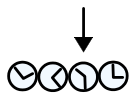


The tiny rivulets grow larger and larger.

A River from Source to Sea - Supported

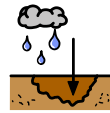


Then they become streams.

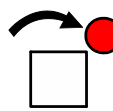


Sometimes the land gets saturated.

=

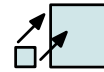
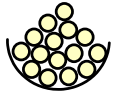


This means no more water can soak in.



Then the rain flows over the land as run off.

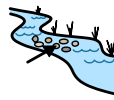
## Middle Section



The amount of water in the stream increases.



The water can carry mud, sand, pebbles and rocks.

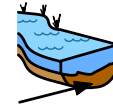
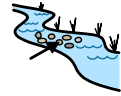


This is called the load.

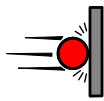


The water is very powerful and flows fast downhill.

A River from Source to Sea - Supported



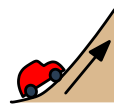
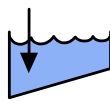
The water and its load cut away at the river bed.



The rocks bash the river channel.





The land is worn away into a valley.



Valleys are deep, steep and v-shaped.

## Lower Section

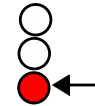
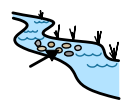
The  ground is  flatter in the  lower  section.

The  valley is now  u-shaped.

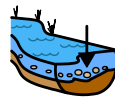
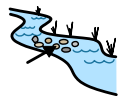
The  river  slows down.

The  power of the  water  reduces.

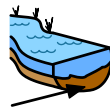
A River from Source to Sea - Supported



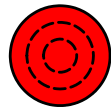
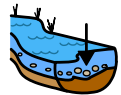
The load in the water falls to the river bottom.



The load is called sediment.



It is dumped on the river bed.



Sediment can be large pebbles or very fine sand or mud.



A River from Source to Sea - Supported



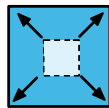
On the floodplain the river flows slowly.



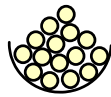
**S**



It makes s-shaped bends called meanders.

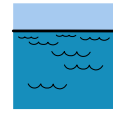
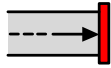


If the river floods it spreads out on the floodplain.

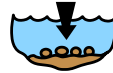
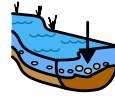


This can be many miles either side of its banks.

A River from Source to Sea - Supported



A river ends when it flows into an ocean or lake.



A lot of sediment can be deposited.

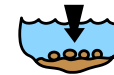
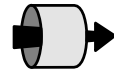
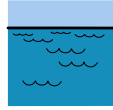


This makes sandbanks.

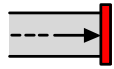


Sandbanks form deltas and estuaries.

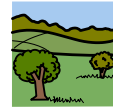
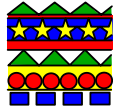
A River from Source to Sea - Supported



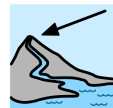
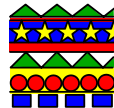
The river flows to the sea through these deposits.



The end of the river is called its mouth.



The river makes a pattern on the land.



The pattern goes from the source to the mouth.

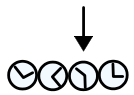
A River from Source to Sea - Supported



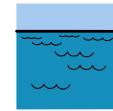
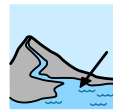
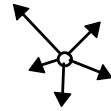
The pattern looks like a tree.



It is called the river drainage basin.



Sometimes it is called the catchment area.



An estuary is where the river mouth meets the sea.