

# Landscapes

## What can cause the landscape to change?

The Earth's surface is constantly being broken down and reshaped. It is affected by many factors, which include wind, ice, rain and snow.

There are two types of weathering: mechanical weathering and chemical weathering. Mechanical weathering is when rocks are broken down by ice, wind or water.

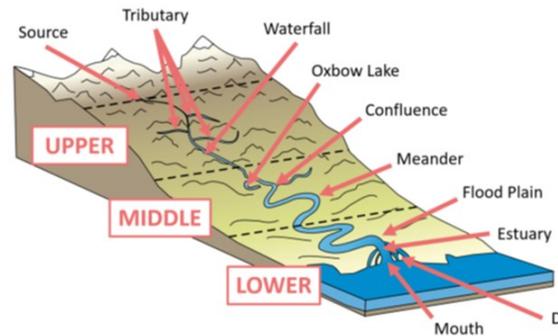
Chemical weathering is when rocks are broken down by chemical reactions. Humans can affect weathering by contributing to the pollution that may cause landforms to break down.

## Rivers

A river is a natural watercourse flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river.

Rivers carry rainwater from hills downhill to other rivers, lakes or the ocean. Rivers and streams often join together before they reach the mouth of the river.

Rivers are difficult and dangerous to cross. Cities and towns often develop where there are bridges to cross a river.



## Mountains

A mountain is a large landform that rises above the surrounding land, usually in the form of a peak. A few mountains are isolated summits, but most occur in mountain ranges. There are three different types of mountains; volcanic, fold and block.

Volcanoes are formed when a plate is pushed below another plate, which melts the rock and forms magma.

Fold mountains occur when two plates collide. They push upwards, folding the rock into mountain peaks.

Block mountains are caused when plates move past each other.

## What should I already know?

The five primary rivers in Europe are the Volga, Danube, Loire, Elbe and the Rhine.

The start of a river is called the source and the end of a river is called the mouth.

A series of mountains is called a mountain range.

The top of a mountain is called a summit.

## Key Vocabulary

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Watercourse     | A channel of flowing water.   |
| Tributaries     | Smaller streams that join a river.  |
| Channel         | The course of a river.  |
| Meanders        | Bends in a river.   |
| Delta           | Where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea. |
| Estuary         | The part of a river that meets the sea.   |
| Pollution       | Adding something that has harmful effects.  |
| Landforms       | Natural features of the Earth's surface.  |
| Magma           | Molten rock that is formed in very hot conditions inside the Earth.                 |
| Plate tectonics | The movements of portions of the Earth's crust.                                     |