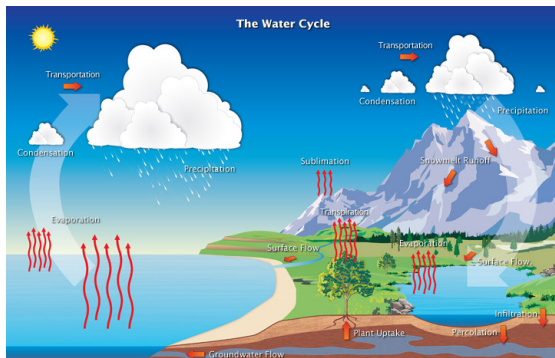




Year 6  
Spring 2  
**Rivers**

*What has changed, and what has stayed the same,  
about the River Thames over time?*



The Water Cycle

## Key Vocabulary

**river** - a large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.

**bank** - the riverbank is the land at the side of the river.

**basin** - the land water must cross to reach a river. It collects all available water from tributaries, creeks and streams in its area.

**tributary** - a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

**River Thames** - a river that flows through southern England including London. At 215 miles (346km), it is the longest river entirely in England and the second longest in the United Kingdom, after the River Severn.

**bed** - The bed is at the bottom of a river. A riverbed can be made of sand, rocks or mud depending on the river.

**canal** - a man-made waterway that is used so that boats can transport goods across the country.

**current** - the strength and speed of the river. Water always flows downhill; the steeper the ground is, the stronger the current will be.

**downstream** - the direction that the water flows, downhill towards the sea.

**erosion** - a fast flowing river can damage the riverbanks and wash bits of the downstream, making the river wider.

**estuary** - where a river reaches the ocean and the river and ocean mix. Estuaries are normally flat and wide.

**mouth** - the end of a river where it flows in to the sea, another river or a lake.

**settlement** - a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.

**mudlark** - a person who scavenges in river mud for objects of value.

