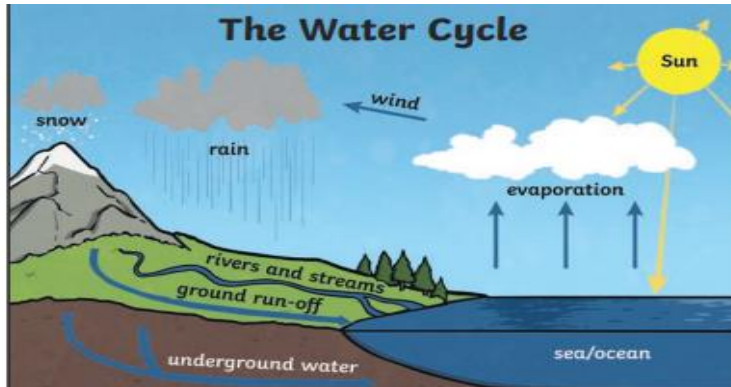


Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

Rivers

River Welland is our local river

Rivers receive water from a wide areas and flows eventually into a lake or the sea. The water flows naturally downwards and sometimes underground.



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.



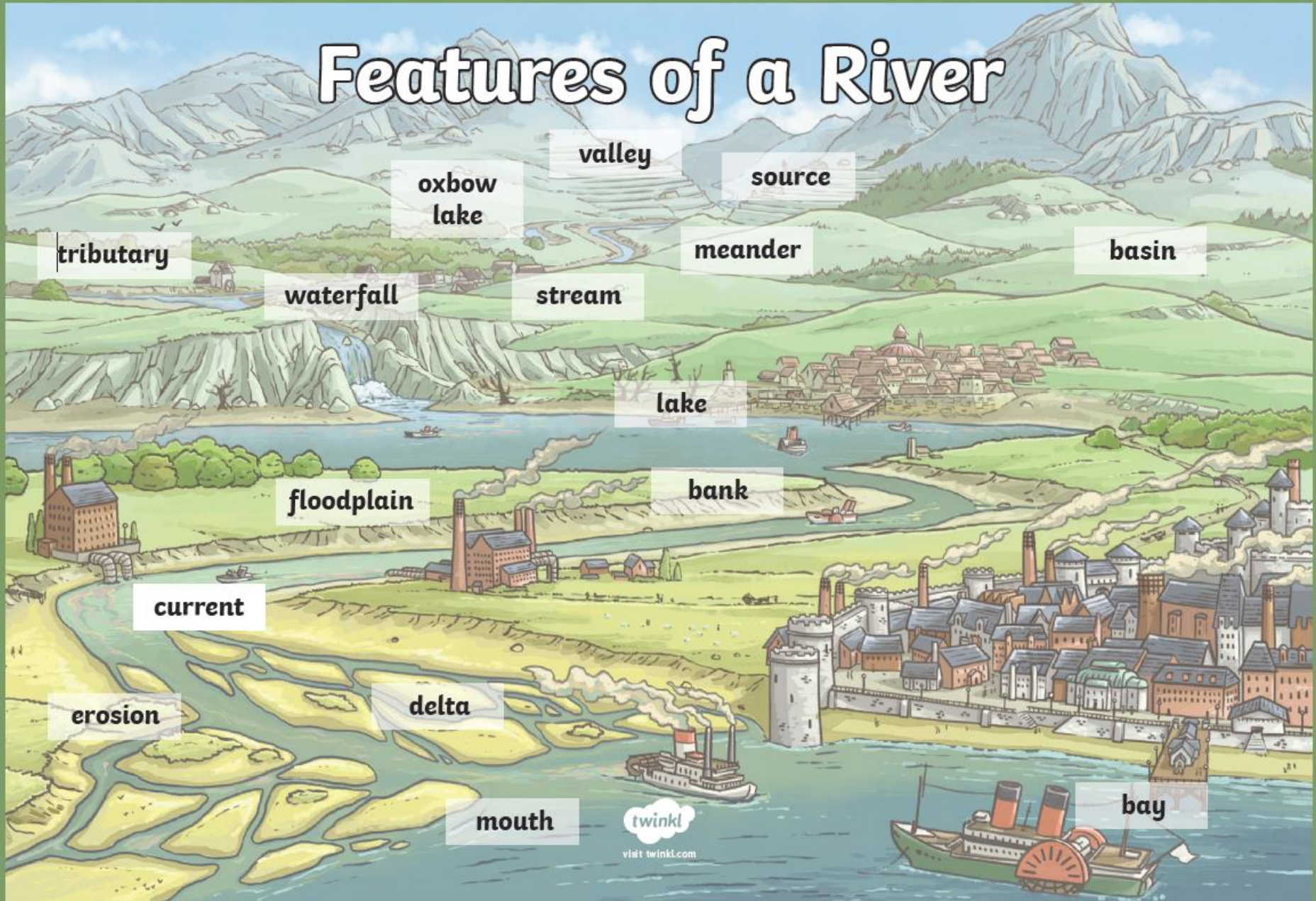
The Lower Course

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 vocabulary

river	a flowing, moving stream of water
stream	A small, fast flow of water
canal	Waterways built by people used for shipping and transport.
reservoir	The store of water that is help back by a dam
lake	Large bodies of water that are surrounded by land and are not part of an ocean
sea	A huge body of salt water
source	Where a river begins its journey
channel	The path of a river
tributary	A small river or stream that meets a large river
mouth	Where the river enters the sea
confluence	Where two rivers meet
meander	A winding bend in the river
Estuary	The last section of the river before the sea
Water cycle	The journey of water on the Earth
deposition/ deposit	When rocks and other materials that have been eroded are dropped off further along the river.
erosion	Rocks and other river materials are picked up by the water and moved to another place along the river.

Features of a River



tributary

waterfall

oxbow
lake

valley

source

meander

basin

stream

lake

floodplain

bank

current

erosion

delta

mouth

bay

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