**HOW DOES WATER GO ROUND AND ROUND? RIVERS AND THE WATER CYCLE**

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| **Key Vocabulary** | | See the source imageSee the source imageSee the source image | **Key knowledge and understanding** |
| Evaporation | Water becoming a gas (water vapour) | * Wherever rainfall lands the water moves downhill. * From a source a stream develops, it flows downhill, joins together with other streams; these eventually join to form a river. The streams are tributaries (think ‘contribute’) and where they join is called a confluence. * As the water flows downhill it erodes a channel/valley and carries eroded material downstream. As the flow slows down on flatter land the material is deposited. The river might also wind around, forming meanders. * Where a river joins the sea, possibly in an estuary, the water is brackish (salty) and the river is affected by tides. * As glaciers move and rivers flow down mountains, they erode the landscape in to a V shape. Over many thousands of years, valleys are formed. * The longest river in the UK is the Severn. * The River Coln is a tributary of the Thames, which is the second longest UK river. * The longest river in Europe is the Volga, in Russia. * The longest river in the world is the Nile in Africa. |
| Condensation | Water vapour returning to a liquid |
| Water cycle | The process by which water is naturally recycled. |
| Source | The place where a river begins |
| Estuary | The place where a river meets the sea |
| Confluence | The meeting of two or more rivers |
| Meander | Where the river bends (usually in its middle course) |
| Tributary | A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake |
| River basin | An area of land that drains into a river and its tributaries. |
| Glacier | A slowly moving mass or river of ice |
| Erosion | Erosion is the process that wears away the river bed and banks. Erosion also breaks up the rocks that are carried by the river |
| delta | Islands formed at the mouth of the river formed by a build up of sediment that has been carried downstream |