

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

- channel** a waterway formed by runoff on steep surfaces of mountains
- delta** large amounts of sediment deposited at the mouth of a large river
- deposition** sediment deposited in new locations by running water
- floodplains** flat areas on both sides of a river where sediments have been deposited when the river overflows
- load** particles of soil and rock that a river carries
- mature river** a river with many tributaries where water flow may be both slow and fast and there are no rapids or waterfalls
- meander** a curve or loop-like bend in the course of river or stream (noun); to follow a winding course (verb)
- mouth** point where a river joins a larger body of water such as a lake or ocean
- old river** a slowly flowing river that has a wide floodplain and is curved and winding

Vocabulary

- oxbow lakes** U-shaped lakes formed when a meander is cut off from the rest of the river
- river** a large flow of water formed when tributaries join
- riverbanks** the sides of a river
- riverbed** the bottom of a river channel
- sediment** pieces of rock and soil deposited by a river
- source** the beginning of a river
- stream** a body of water that flows in only one direction
- tributaries** smaller streams flowing into a larger stream or body of water
- young river** a river found in mountainous areas; its water flows very fast and often has rapids and waterfalls