

Source



A **source** is the start, or beginning, of a river. It is where a river begins its journey. A river can have more than one source and the source is usually found in hills or mountains.

Waterfall



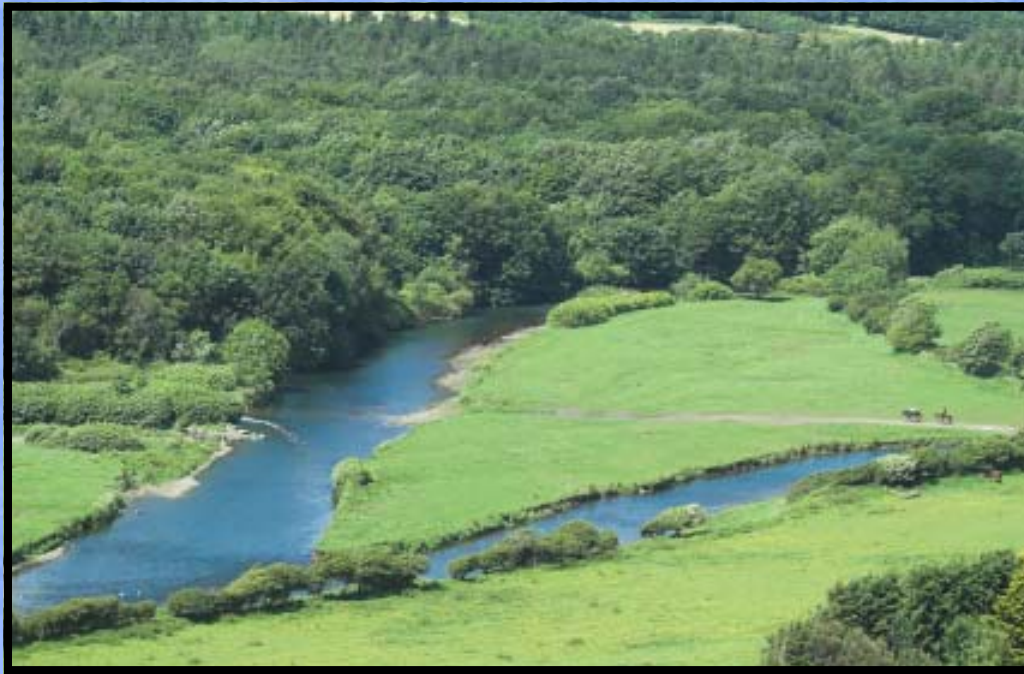
When there is a steep drop in the river bed, perhaps when it flows over rocks or a steep cliff, this forms a **waterfall**.

Meander



A **meander** is a bend in a river. The river carves out 's' shaped bends in the landscape as it flows. Meanders often occur in places where the water is moving slowly.

Tributary



A **tributary** is a stream or river that joins onto another stream or river to make a larger river. As more tributaries join the main river it becomes larger.

Floodplain



A **floodplain** is an area of flat land close to the banks of a river. The land is very fertile and is often used for agriculture. When the river floods the floodplain can become covered with water.

Estuary



A river is always flowing towards the sea. When the river has a wide mouth it is called an estuary. In an estuary the fresh water mixes with salt water from the sea.

Mouth



The mouth of a river is the place where the river flows into the sea. This marks the end of the river's journey.