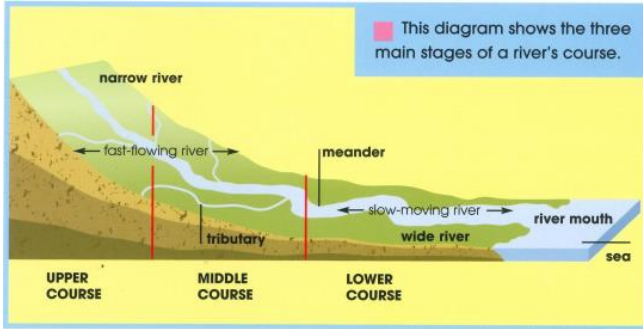


KS2 Knowledge Organiser: Rivers: How do they affect us and our landscape?

A river's source, where it begins, is usually found in mountainous areas. The river changes and shapes the landscape as it makes its way to the sea.



Rivers are an important habitat for wildlife and they are also used for a wide-range of purposes including farming, transportation and leisure activities.



Rivers can flood and cause serious damage. Levees, embankments, dams and afforestation can all help prevent flooding.



Erosion can also create waterfalls such as the Niagara Falls.



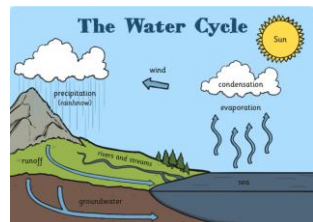
The Colorado River has helped to create the Grand Canyon in America through erosion.



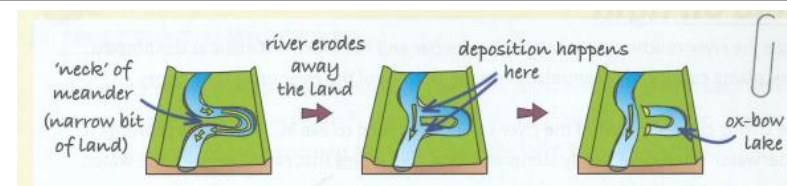
Many rivers flow through cities. There are 5 rivers in Sheffield.

Can you name them?

Water can also be used to generate electricity. This is known as hydroelectricity.



Where does our water come from? Water moves around our planet in a constant cycle known as the water cycle. Rivers and the water cycle can be badly affected by things like pollution, farming, litter and factories.



Rivers change the landscape through a process called erosion. Over time, meanders or bends in rivers can become oxbow lakes.

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Vocabulary

Confluence – the place where two rivers join.

Delta – sediment deposited at the mouth of a river which creates new land.

Deposition – where sediment is dropped or deposited by a river.

Drainage basin – an area of land where rain collects and drains to a river.

Erosion – where water or wind wears away at a surface.

Estuary – where fresh water at a river's mouth joins salty water from the sea.

Floodplain – low-lying land at the side of a river that is prone to flooding.

Hydroelectricity – electricity generated from the energy of fast-flowing water

Load – material carried by a river such as rocks, stones and gravel

Meander – a sweeping bend in a river caused by erosion and deposition

Oxbow lake – a curved lake formed from a river meander

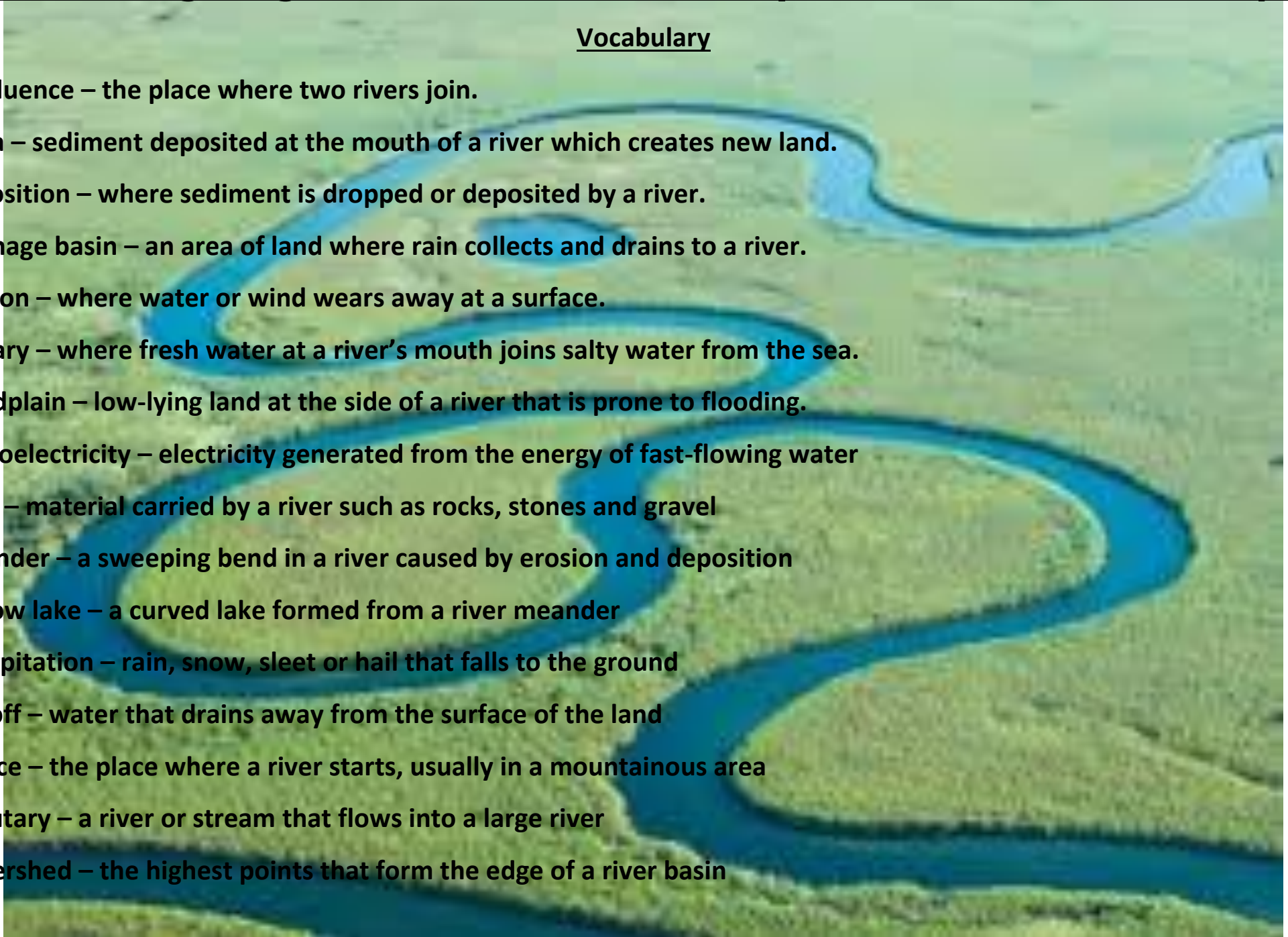
Precipitation – rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls to the ground

Runoff – water that drains away from the surface of the land

Source – the place where a river starts, usually in a mountainous area

Tributary – a river or stream that flows into a large river

Watershed – the highest points that form the edge of a river basin



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