

# PARTS of a RIVER

**Source:** where a river gets its original flow

**Headwaters:** the beginning water flow of a river

**Groundwater:** water that flows underground and often makes up much of a river's flow

**Rapids:** areas of faster flow, usually over shallow rocks or through narrow valleys

**Floodplain:** flat area of land along a river system covered with water during high water

**Meander:** an S-shaped path of a river formed by erosion and sedimentation

**Buffer Zone:** along the land that filters run-off before it reaches the river

**Wetlands:** places where plants and animals live in shallow water or moist soils

**Oxbow Lake:** a body of water formed when a side channel is cut off from the river

**Estuary:** influenced by tides, where fresh water and salt water mix

**Watershed:** all of the land that drains into one body of water

**Spring:** groundwater that discharges onto the earth's surface

**Waterfall:** a vertical drop in a river that forms when water flows over rocks or hills

**Pool:** an area of slow flow and deep river water

**Tributary:** a river that flows into a larger river

**Riverbank:** sides of a river between which water normally flows

**Channel:** downstream along a river bed

**Backwater:** a body of still water connected to the river channel

**Mouth:** the area where a river empties into a larger body of water



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