

How a River Forms and Flows

Chapter 2: Journey of a River · Topic 1

Key Concept

Rivers often begin in mountains or hills, where melting snow or rainwater collects and starts flowing downhill due to gravity.

As the river flows, smaller streams called tributaries join the main river, adding more water and making it wider and stronger.

Rivers shape the land they flow through, carving valleys, depositing soil, and creating fertile plains ideal for farming along their banks.

Eventually, most rivers flow into a larger body of water, like a lake, sea, or ocean, completing their journey from source to mouth.

Quick Revision Notes

- Rivers form from streams joining together.
- Rivers often begin in mountains or hills.
- Gravity causes water to flow downhill.
- Tributaries are smaller streams joining the main river.
- Rivers shape land by carving valleys and depositing soil.
- River banks often have fertile land for farming.
- Rivers eventually flow into a lake, sea or ocean.
- This ending point is called the river's mouth.

Practice Questions

- 1 Find a river near your area and research its source.
- 2 Draw a river showing its source, tributaries and mouth.
- 3 Discuss why river banks are good for farming.
- 4 Research a major Indian river and its journey.
- 5 Explain how gravity affects river flow.
- 6 Discuss the importance of a river to nearby communities.