

# Misty Mountain, Winding River

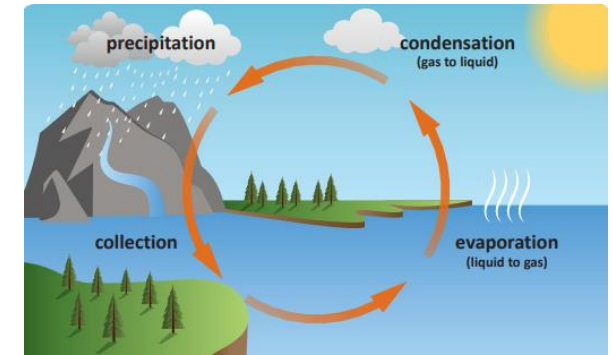
A **mountain** is a large, raised part of the Earth's surface. A mountain's highest point is called its peak or summit. Mountains are at least 610m in height. A mountain range is a chain of mountains that are close together. They are usually arranged in a line connected by ridges.



A **river** is a body of water that flows downhill, usually to the sea. Rivers start in mountains or upland areas and flow downstream, collecting water from small, narrow streams, springs, rainfall or other water sources on the way to the sea.



**Water cycle**  
The water cycle is the journey water takes as it travels from rivers, lakes, seas and oceans into the sky and then back down to the ground. Water changes state as it goes around the cycle in four stages: evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.



## The Upper Course

The upper course of a river is narrow. Water flows over the riverbed, carrying rocks that erode the land and create steep-sided, V-shaped valleys.



## Fold Mountains

Fold mountains form when tectonic plates collide with each other. One plate is pushed down while the other is pushed up and compressed, forming folds.



## The Middle Course

The middle course of a river grows wider and deeper as the land becomes flatter. Bends called meanders form.



## Volcanic mountains

Volcanic mountains are formed when lava, ash and gases erupt and then cool. These types of mountain often have steep slopes.



## The Lower Course

The lower course is the widest part of a river. The land is flat, and the water flows into the sea at the river's mouth.



## Fault-block mountains

Fault-block mountains form at plate boundaries. The earth on one side of the boundary is forced up, and the other side collapses.

## Vocabulary

altitude	The height of an object or point above sea level
delta	A triangular piece of land at the mouth of a river that has formed because of a build-up of sediment
floodplain	An area of flat land next to a river that floods when the river bursts its banks
meander	A bend in a river or stream
ridge	Long, narrow sections of rocky ground that connect mountains
sediment	Very small pieces of sand, soil and stone that form through the process of erosion
V-shaped valley	A deep, straight channel that has been cut into the rock by erosion
waterfall	A cascade of water that falls from a higher level to a lower level