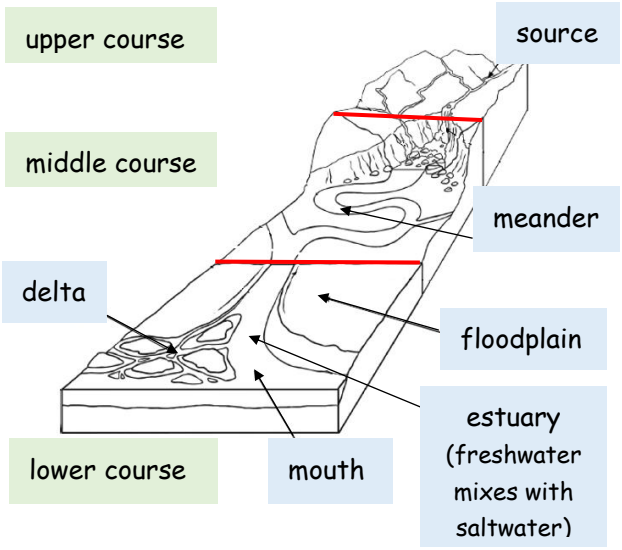
Geography – River Wey – Year 3

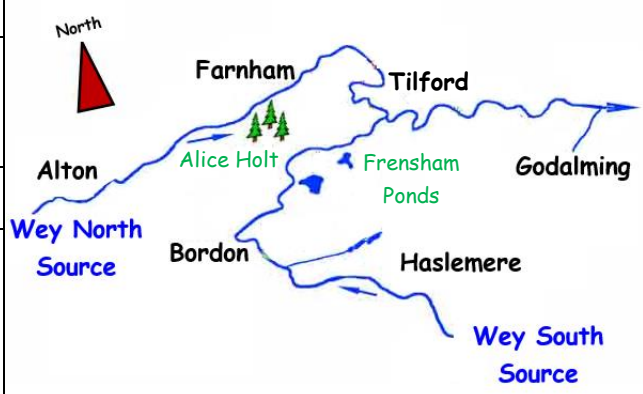
Vocabulary Top Ten:

confluence	the point where two rivers join
delta	a wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea
deposition	when the river drops what is was transporting such as soil and rock
erosion	the wearing away of the land by forces such as water
meander	a horse-shoe like loop formed when a river erodes left and right
mouth	the end of the river
river	a flowing, moving stream of water
sediments	solid material such as earth and pieces of rock that settles at the bottom of a river
source	where the river begins
tributary	a stream or river that flows into a larger river

Features of a river



Map of River Wey



River Wey

The River Wey has two sources and two tributaries (**Wey North** and **Wey South)** that join to make the River Wey.

The two tributaries join at Tilford. The River Wey is also a **tributary** of the **River Thames**. Once combined, the River Wey flows via Godalming and Guildford to meet the River Thames in Surrey.

The River Wey passes through a variety of habitats including heathland, woodland and water meadow. There are Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves along the river.

History

- The river has been at the heart of Alton's community ever since the town was first established, providing **water for the tanning, cloth, paper** and **watercress industries**.
- The **Watercress Line** was once used to transport watercress by rail to its market place.
- The River Wey has **two manmade navigations** (built around the time of the English Civil War 350 years ago). The canals provided almost 20 miles of navigable water connecting the county with London and ensured that Surrey became one of the wealthiest and most influential areas in Britain.

Today

The Wey Navigations are used by all types of pleasure boats; including canoes, skiffs, skulls, rowing boats and narrowboats.

The water flows faster on the outside bend causing the water to **erode** the riverbank so the bend gets bigger. The water flows slower on the inside bend causing the water to **deposit** what it had been carrying. This process keeps happening until the river channel breaks through cutting off the supply of water to the meander and creating an **ox bow lake**.

