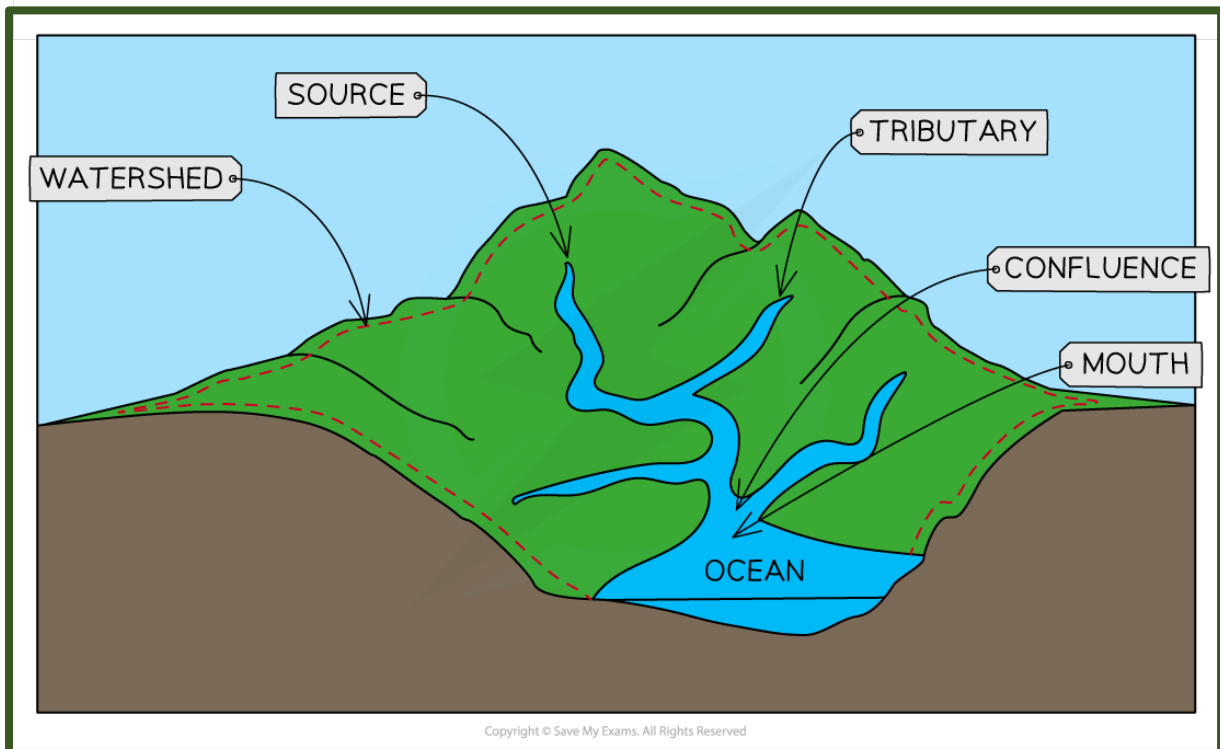


1 | River Environments

----- Drainage Basins -----

A drainage basin, also known as a watershed or catchment area, is an area of land where all the water that falls as precipitation eventually drains into a common outlet, such as a river, lake, or ocean. It is a fundamental concept in understanding the movement of water on the Earth's surface.



Spot some of the features in this photo, on the left

1 | River Environments

----- Features -----

1. River Channel:

- **Main Channel:** The primary pathway through which water flows, connecting the entire drainage basin.
- **Tributaries:** Small rivers or streams that flow into the main river channel, contributing water to the basin.

2. Drainage Divides:

- **Highland Areas:** The elevated areas that separate one drainage basin from another, forming the boundaries of the basin.
- **Watershed:** The divide that separates adjacent drainage basins.

3. Source:

- **Headwaters:** The upper part of a river, typically the starting point of the river within the drainage basin.

4. Mouth:

- **Estuary:** The wide mouth of a river where it meets the sea, characterized by the mixing of freshwater and saltwater.
- **Delta:** A landform at the mouth of a river, formed by the deposition of sediment carried by the river.

5. Drainage Patterns:

- **Dendritic:** Tree-like pattern characterized by a branching network of tributaries, common in areas with uniform rock and soil.
- **Rectangular:** Straight, angular channels often associated with faulted and jointed landscapes.
- **Radial:** Flowing outward from a central high point, common in volcanic areas.
- **Trellis:** Main river channels and tributaries running parallel, often found in areas with folded rock structures.

6. Landforms:

- **Waterfalls:** Formed when a river encounters a sudden drop in elevation, often due to a change in rock type.
- **Meanders:** Bends or curves in a river channel.
- **Oxbow Lakes:** Formed when meanders are cut off, creating a U-shaped body of water.
- **Floodplains:** Flat areas adjacent to rivers that are periodically flooded during high water levels.
- **Levees:** Natural embankments along riverbanks formed by sediment deposition during floods.