

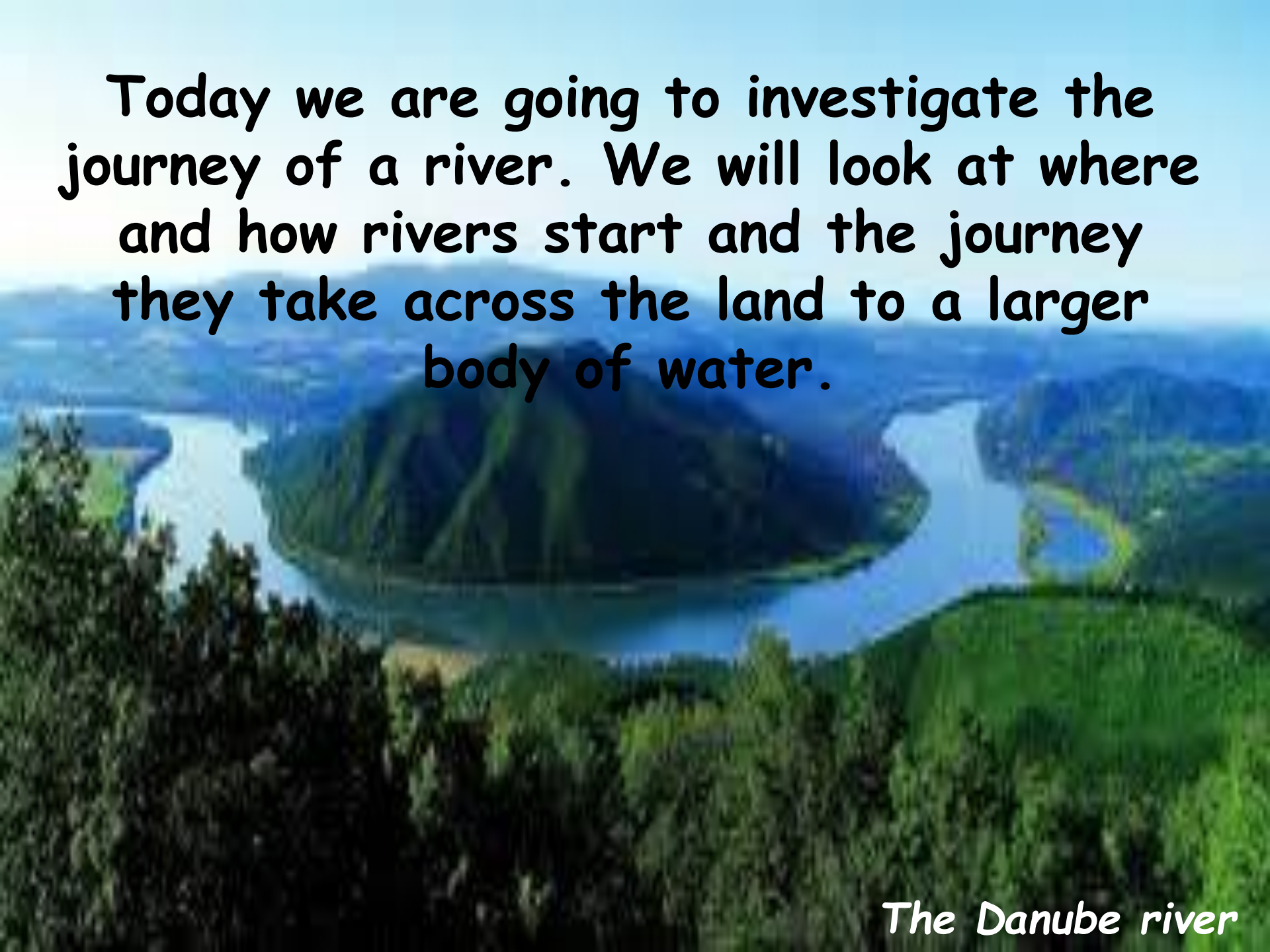
An aerial photograph of the Amazon River, showing a wide, winding waterway that cuts through a vast, dense green forest. The river's path is clearly visible as a light-colored ribbon against the dark green canopy. In the upper left, some white clouds are visible against a blue sky. The overall scene conveys the scale and natural beauty of the Amazon basin.

# LO: To understand the journey of a river

*Rivers*

*The Amazon river*

Today we are going to investigate the journey of a river. We will look at where and how rivers start and the journey they take across the land to a larger body of water.



*The Danube river*

# Where do rivers begin? How do rivers begin?

We are going to watch a short clip which explains how rivers can begin.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zb39jxs>

*The Ganges river*





Clouds release their rain over the hills.

Most of this soaks into the ground to become **groundwater**.

Some groundwater comes to the surface to form **springs**.

Springs join together to make **streams**.

As the streams trickle down the hillside they join together, getting bigger as they go, until they become **rivers**.

# The journey of a river can be divided into three sections:

upper

middle

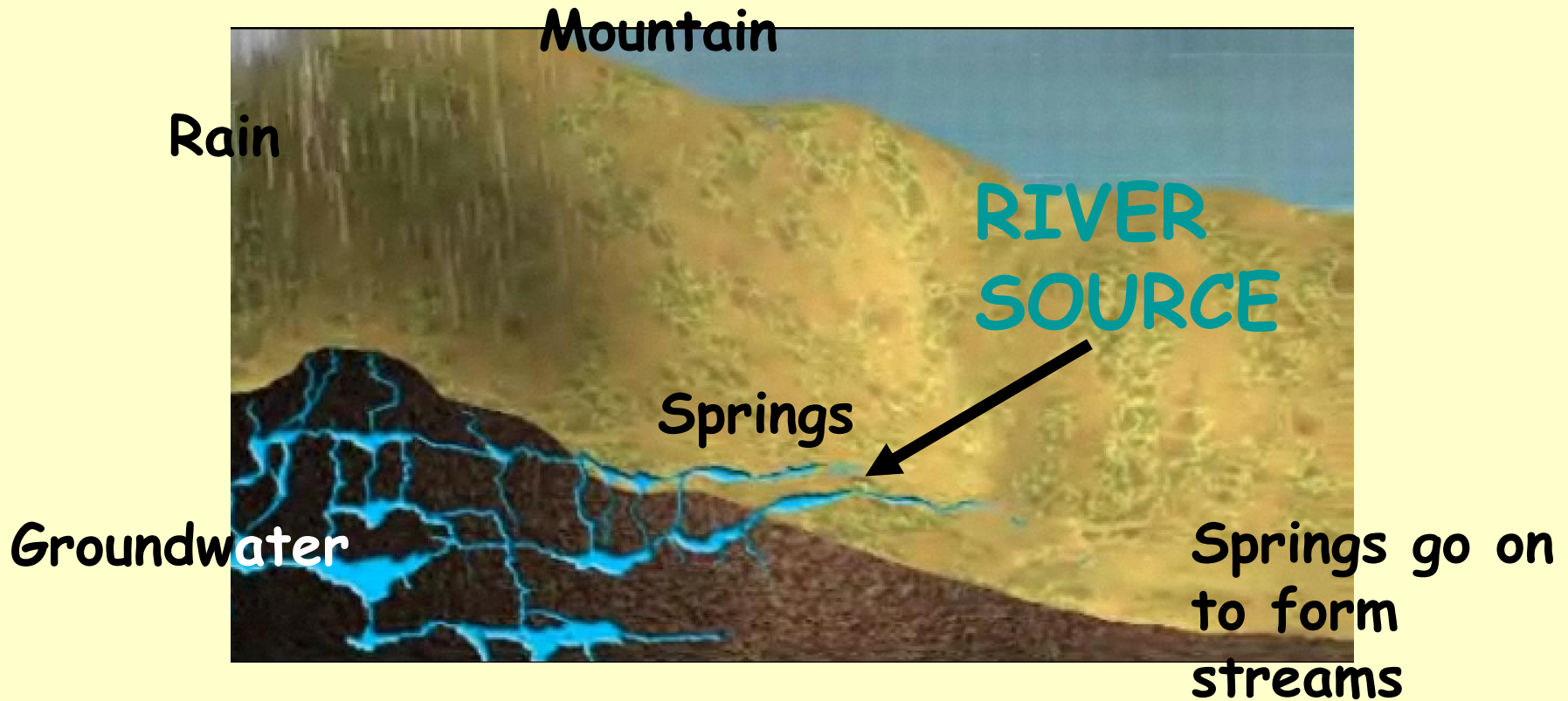
lower



*The Yangtze river*

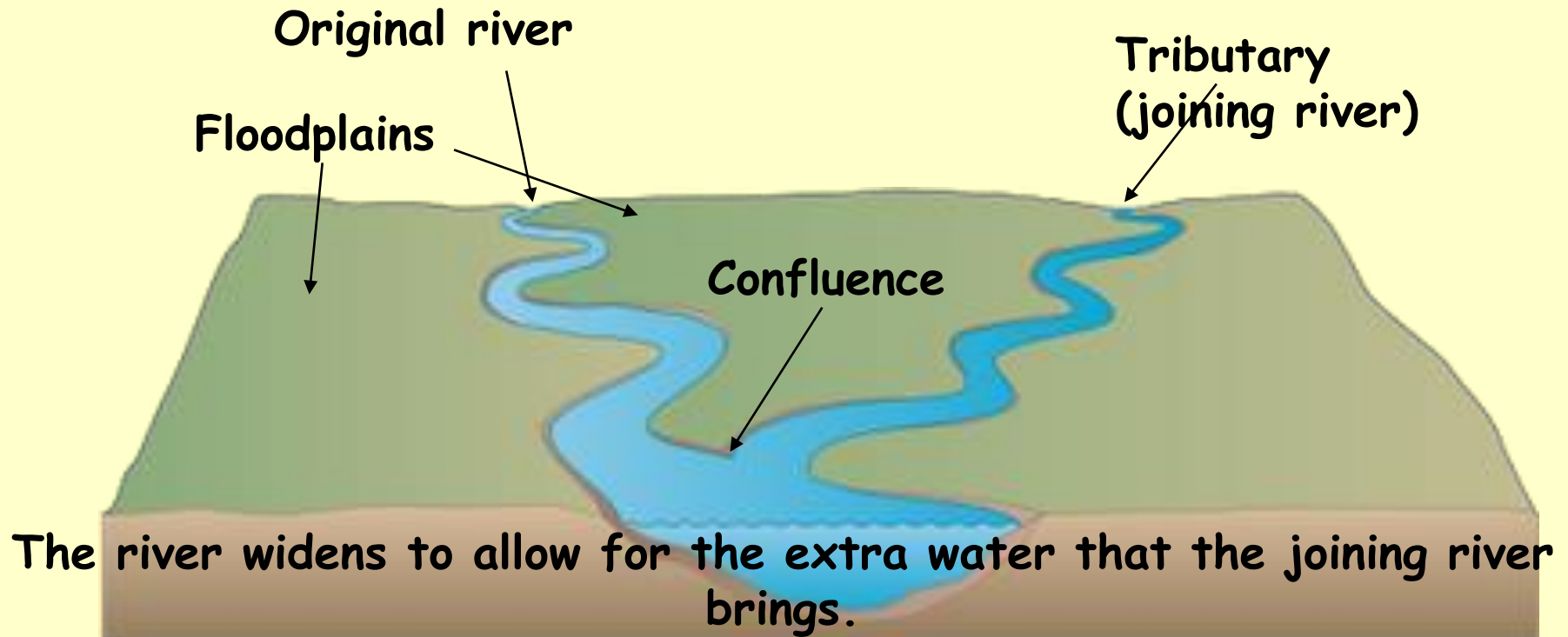
# The Upper Course

The upper course of a river starts at the source, this is where the river begins.



# The Middle Course

On either side of the middle course of the river are floodplains, these areas are flat and often become flooded when heavy rainfall causes the river to overflow. Sometimes another river (a tributary) will join a river; the joining point is called a confluence.





# The Middle Course - Meanders

A meander is a large bend in the river. If a river floods, the neck of the meander becomes flooded and the river will take this route - rivers take the shortest route.

Over time the neck of the meander will become the new path of the river, soil will be deposited by the river and the meander will be cut off completely and end up forming an oxbow lake.



River takes

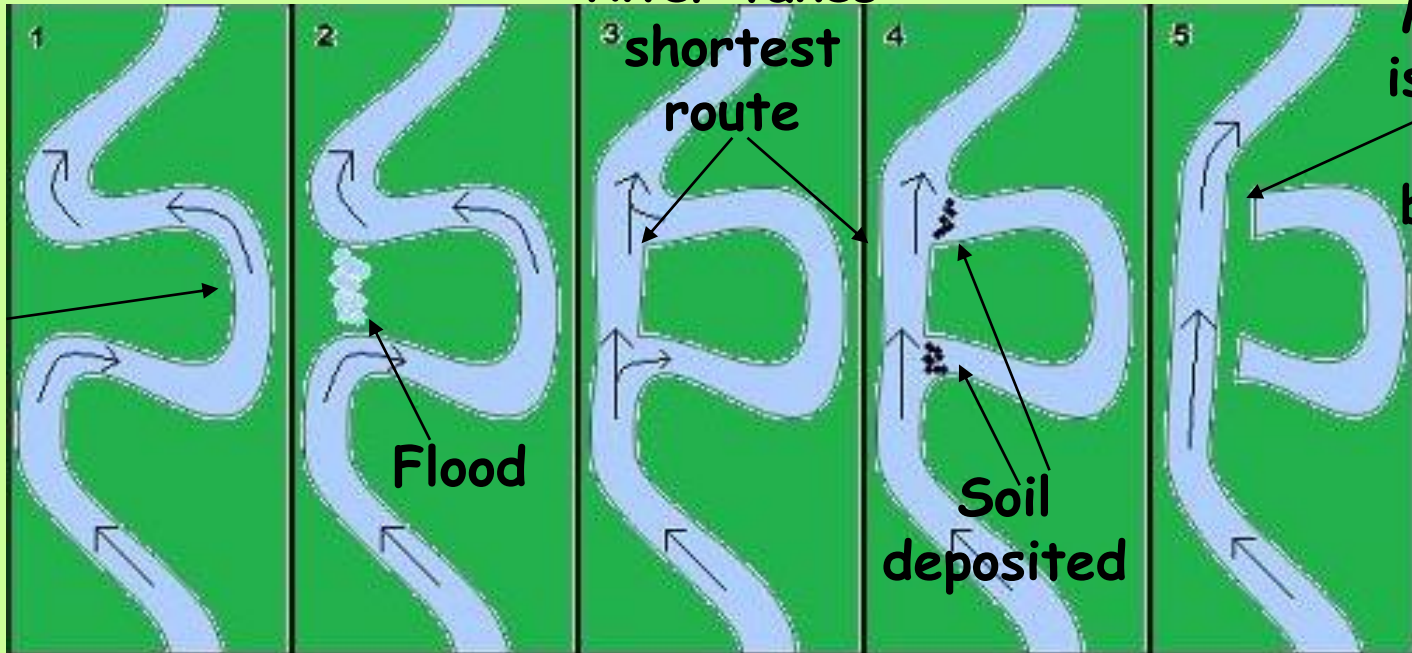
shortest  
route

Meander  
is cut off  
and ox  
bow lake  
forms

Meander

Flood

Soil  
deposited





# The Lower Course

The lower course of the river leads to the mouth of the river; the mouth of the river is where the river meets the sea. The lower course of the river has larger meanders. The river has energy and so carries less material, it deposits the soil and other materials which eventually form small islands or deltas.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z7s8q6f>



# Key Words



- **Source** - the beginning of a river.
- **Groundwater** - rain that soaks into the ground.
- **Spring** - groundwater that comes up to the surface.
- **Stream** - a small river.
- **River** - a large natural stream of water.
- **Floodplain** - area of flat land either side, likely to flood.
- **Confluence** - the point where a tributary joins a river.
- **Tributary** - a stream or river that joins another river.
- **Meander** - a bend in a river.
- **Ox bow lake** - a lake created when a meander is cut off.
- **Mouth** - the place where a river meets the sea.
- **Delta** - a small island created by deposited material (soil).



