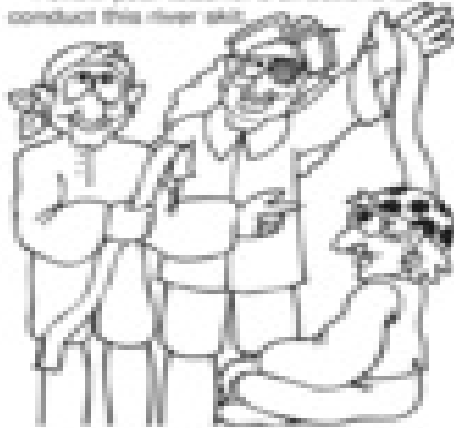


The River Runs

Follow your teacher's directions to conduct this river skit.



Narrator: (floating slowly and pausing to allow the students time to act out the **boldfaced** words.)

The **source**, or beginning, of many rivers is in the mountains, where collected rain, melting snow, or springwaters form a **stream**. This stream flows downhill—carrying soil, or **silt**, and rocks along with it while it carves out a path. Other rivers and streams, called **tributaries** or branches, join it and make it larger. It is now called a **river**.

The bottom of the river is called the **bed**. The sides are called the **banks**. The land area from which all of this water comes is called the **river basin**.

At times—when the land is flat—the river **current** slows down and drops some of the sand and rocks it has been carrying. These deposits can form **sandbars**, or small islands, in the river. Over long periods of time, swift river currents can erode the soil and rock of the riverbed. This erosion forms a **canyon**.

The river's path, or **course**, can sometimes shift and change directions, wandering across the land. Where **meanders** are low or when there is a lot of rain, the river will flood the land that surrounds it.

As a river approaches the sea, it drops its silt and forms a wide area of fertile, built-up land called a **delta**. This is the river's **mouth**, where it reaches its final destination, the sea.

Key Word	Actions by Student(s)
Source	One student stands on a table or counter as a mountain.
Stream	A new student climbs up next to the source and slowly climbs down. This student will lead the river all the way to the mouth. She carries a blue streamer in each hand.
Silt	Two students join the stream, tumbling behind it.
Tributaries	Two students come from different directions and join up behind the original stream. They each hold streamers in their hands.
River	The stream and tributary students now make up the river and continue moving in a line together.
Meander	Two new students lie on the floor as the stream passes by.
Meanders	Two new students on each side of the meander (four students in all) kneel on the floor, arms out to their sides.
River Basin	Four new students fan out in a semicircle from the sides of the river to form the meander.
Current	The river students continue to walk slowly.
Sandbars	One of the old students deposits himself on the floor and no longer follows the river.
Canyon	Two new students on each side of the river (four new students in all) stand on chairs with arms outstretched.
Course	The river students slowly zigzag along between the canyon walls.
Flood	Two of the river students walk off to the sides waving arms in all directions, then rejoin the main river students.
Delta	Three new students form a triangle, arms outstretched. The remaining old student sits down and no longer follows the river.
Mouth	Two students stand with hands on hips to indicate the sea. The river students walk past the delta and sea students.

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