

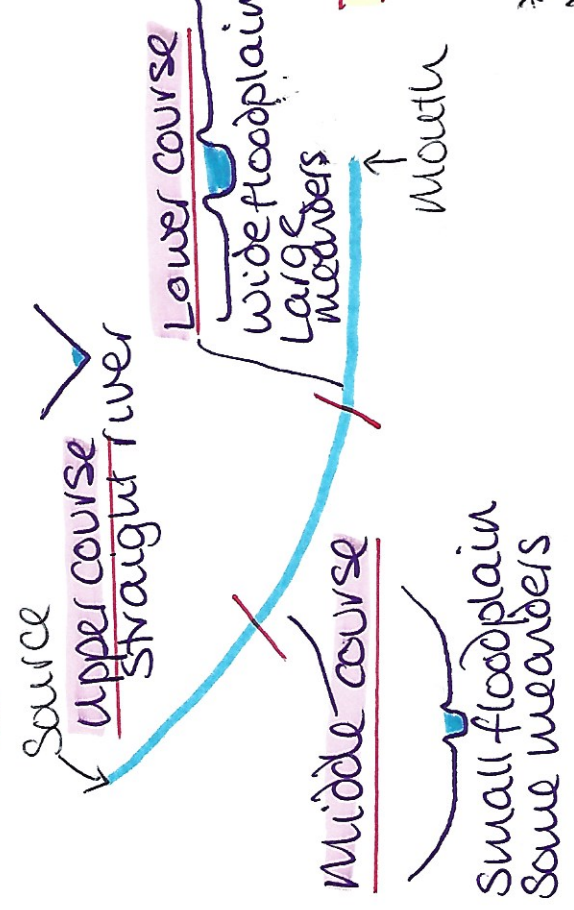
River Landscapes in the UK

KEY TERMS

Drainage Basin - area of land drained by a river and its tributaries

Source
Tributary
watershed
Confluence
Mouth
Estuary

River Processes



Changes Downstream

Long Profile - gradient of river bed from source to mouth.

Upper course

- * Steep gradient
- * Cross profile is a steep, V shape
- * Vertical erosion is dominant

Middle course

- * Gentle gradient
- * wider valley - start of a floodplain
- * Erosion is ~ vertical and lateral

Lower course

- * very gentle gradient
- * wide, flat floodplains
- * lateral erosion and deposition

Erosion

- * hydraulic action
- * Abrasion
- * Attrition
- * Solution

may be vertical or lateral

Transportation

- * Traction
- * Saltation
- * Suspension
- * Solution

Deposition

Occurs when the river loses energy

- * inside of a meander
- * where gradient reduces
- * in drought

