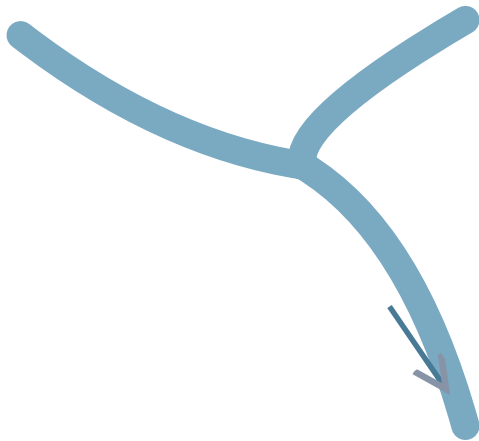


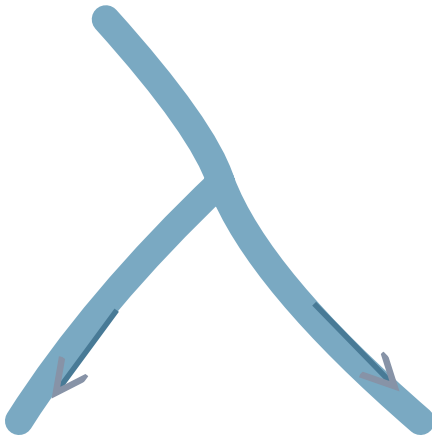
Rivers: joining, branching and drainage

Distinguish river network terms, waterfalls, mouths and dam projects

• River systems and landforms



Tributary → joins the main river



Distributary → branches away

A tributary joins; a distributary branches

◆ Tributary and distributary

- A tributary flows into a larger main river or lake, adding water and sediment.
- Example: the Yamuna joins the Ganga at Prayagraj.
- A distributary branches off from the main river near its delta, like the Hooghly.

○ Basin, divide and waterfall

- A drainage basin is the total catchment area drained by a river and its tributaries.
- An elevated water divide (watershed) separates two neighbouring drainage basins.
- Steep scarps create waterfalls, such as Jog (Gersoppa) Falls on the Sharavathi.

◇ Delta and estuary

- A delta can grow where sediment deposition at a river mouth exceeds its removal.
- East-flowing rivers like the Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri form deltas.
- An estuary is a tidal river mouth; the Narmada and Tapi are Indian examples.

□ Dams and downstream effects

- Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi river near Sambalpur in Odisha.
- Multi-purpose dams support flood moderation, irrigation storage and hydroelectricity.
- Impoundment also traps silt, alters downstream flow and requires careful management.

REMEMBER A tributary joins; a distributary branches away. Drainage basins connect rainfall, relief and river flow.