

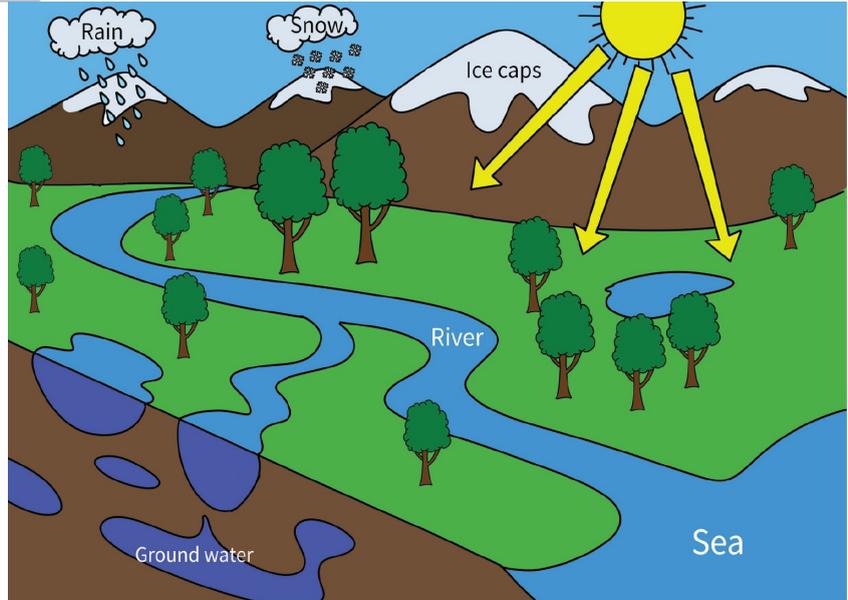
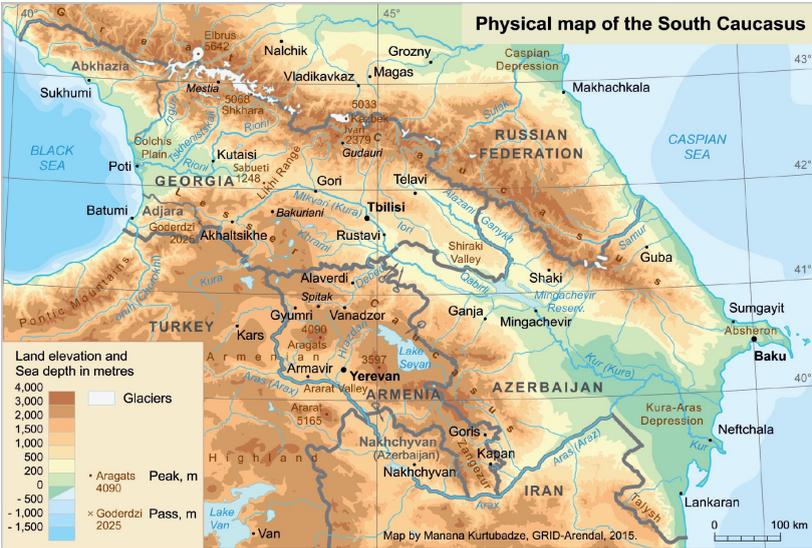


What is a river basin?

III-V Grades



Physical map of the South Caucasus



What is a river basin?

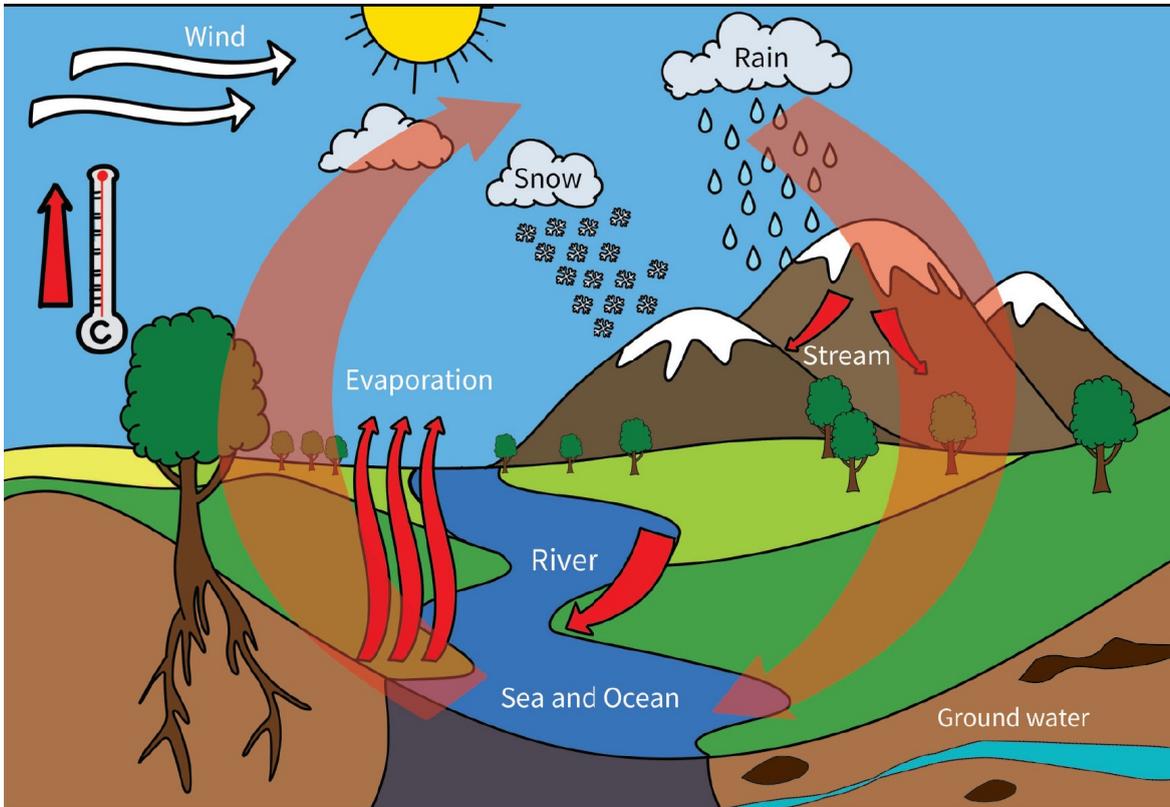
You may be aware of the term “river basin” and you may think that this is the same as a river, but it is important to know that there is a significant difference between them.

A river is a stream of water that flows from high mountains to lowland and into another river, sea or ocean. Rivers are fed by rainfall and melting snow.



A river basin is the portion of land in which snow and rainfall collect and flow into a river..

A large river basin may have several sub-basins. For instance, Kura River has several sub-basins, such as the Alazani and the Iori.





If we think about it, we deduce that the downstream water users in the river basin - which are towns and villages, and various businesses - depend on upstream water users. If the water is polluted upstream, it will negatively affect the water users downstream.

If we look at the map carefully, we will notice that some rivers are located in more than one country. These are called transboundary rivers. The Kura River is one such river. It starts in Turkey, crosses Georgia and eventually flows into the Caspian Sea through the territory of Azerbaijan.

INTERESTING FACTS

There are 2.8 billion people living in the transboundary river basins, which accounts for almost the third of the whole world population. The transboundary basin of the Danube River extends into the territories of 19 countries and is the world's most international basin.

Between the growth of population in the last century and agricultural and industrial development, human consumption of water has increased significantly. As a result of climate change, the amount of water in the river basins is decreasing. Because of global warming ever more water is needed for irrigation. As a result, many regions have less water than they need, negatively affecting the population in numerous ways.



Under the circumstances, further deterioration of the situation can be prevented through the improvement of water consumption in the river basins and reduction of water that is wasted and lost.

Water consumption will be improved if all the water users in the river basin agree that they will take each other's interests into consideration when they consume and use water. In this way all the users will have sufficient water, including animals and plants, as they also need water!

DO IT YOURSELF

- 💧 Find the Earth's big river basins on either the printed or electronic map and write down their names. Where are these basins located?
- 💧 Find the Kura River basin and compare it with the big river basins you have located.
- 💧 Think about and name the different types of water users that you think are present in the basin of the Kura River.
- 💧 In your opinion, which of the users should have first access to water if enough isn't available for all of them? Why? Discuss this with your classmates while your teacher facilitates.





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