

# All you need to know about... The River Tees

## Location



The River Tees is located in the North-East of England.

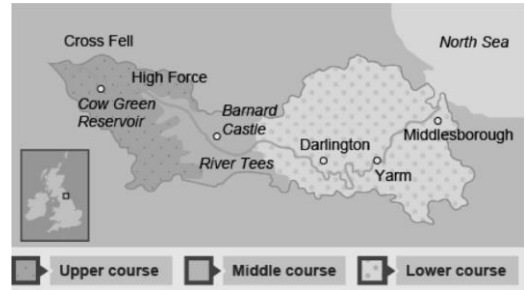
Its source is high in the Pennine Hills near cross fell (893m)  
From there it flows roughly east for around 128km to reach the North Sea at Middlesbrough.



## Source to mouth



The source of the River Tees is located in the Pennines and the river flows east to its mouth where it joins the North Sea.



## The upper course



The upper course has hard impermeable rocks. Here, vertical erosion has formed a V-shaped valley.



High Force, the UK's largest waterfall at 21 metres high, is located in the upper course. Here, a layer of hard resistant igneous rock called the Whin Sill (or Whinstone) lies over a layer of softer rocks (sandstones and slates) which erode more easily.



## The middle course



As the River Tees starts to erode sideways (lateral erosion), it forms meanders and oxbow lakes. These can be identified in the middle course near Barnard Castle.



## The lower course



Near Yarm, the meanders in the lower course are much larger, and oxbow lakes have formed. In this area there are also levees which have formed when the river has flooded.

The River Tees has a very large estuary with mudflats and sandbanks which supports wildlife in the area..

Sites such as Seal Sands are protected areas



## Human uses

**Farming** - Sheep farming in the upper course.



**Tourism** - The Pennine Way, High Force waterfall



**Transport and settlement** - the Tees has been an important route way for centuries, and towns such as Yarm owe their existence to trading on the river.