

Name a river valley that has a variety of landforms:                     The River Tees                    

Describe and explain how the landforms of this river change as you move down the valley (8)

The River Tees flows for 128km from its source high in the Pennine Hills at Cross Fell to its mouth in the industrial conurbation of Teeside, where it flows into the North Sea. The river exhibits many classic landforms. In the upper section you will find High Force waterfall, here the waterfall owes its formation to a band of hard rock which cuts across the river valley. The river is unable to erode the hard rock as much as the underlying softer rock and therefore the river plunges over the waterfall, it undercuts the weaker rock, creating an overhang, which eventually collapses under its weight. The subsequent plunge pool is deepened by the abrasion of loose pieces of rock. A few kilometres to the south-east of Darlington the River Tees starts to meander through farmland. Here the river has more energy and a higher volume of water. The gradient here is gentle and erosion is lateral rather than vertical as it was in the upper section. As the river erodes laterally, to the right and left, it forms large bends that are known as meanders. As the river reaches its mouth, just to the North of Middlesbrough, the vast flat valley floor leads into an estuary. Formed by the flooding of river-eroded or glacially-scoured valleys, this area has been extensively developed for industry because of its wide river mouth for its shipping and safe harbours.

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