

River processes

River processes shape the land in different ways as the river moves from its source to its mouth. Erosion, deposition and materials rivers carry all contribute to how rivers shape surrounding land.

Erosion

Erosion involves the wearing away of rock and soil found along the river bed and banks. Erosion also involves the breaking down of the rock particles being carried downstream by the river.

The four main forms of river erosion

- **Hydraulic action** - the force of the river against the banks can cause air to be trapped in cracks and crevices. The pressure weakens the banks and gradually wears it away.
- **Abrasion** - rocks carried along by the river wear down the river bed and banks.
- **Attrition** - rocks being carried by the river smash together and break into smaller, smoother and rounder particles.
- **Solution** - soluble particles are dissolved into the river.

Transport

Rivers pick up and carry material as they flow downstream.

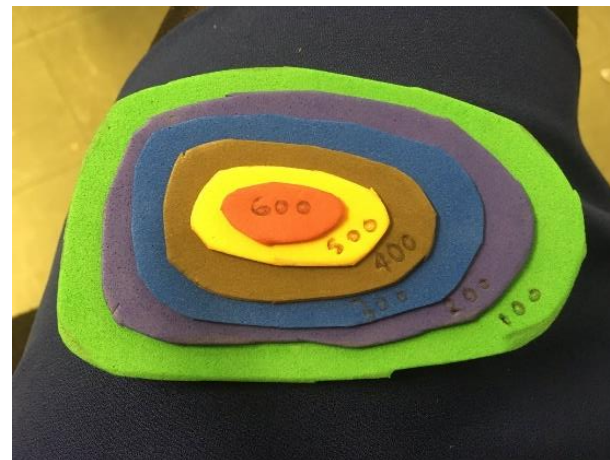
The four different river transport processes

- **Solution** - minerals are dissolved in the water and carried along in solution.
- **Suspension** - fine light material is carried along in the water.
- **Saltation** - small pebbles and stones are bounced along the river bed.
- **Traction** - large boulders and rocks are rolled along the river bed.

Deposition

When a river loses energy, it will drop or deposit some of the material it is carrying.

- Deposition may take place when a river enters an area of shallow water or when the volume of water decreases - for example, after a flood or during times of drought.
- Deposition is common towards the end of a river's journey, at the mouth.
- Deposition at the mouth of a river can form deltas - for example, the Mississippi Delta.



Year 5: Geography Knowledge Mat - The Study of another Continent, Rivers and the Water Cycle

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
Equator	A line notionally drawn on the earth equidistant from the poles, dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres and constituting the parallel of latitude 0°.
climate	The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.
urban area	Urban areas are very developed, meaning there is a density of human structures such as houses, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and railways.
contour	Contour are imaginary lines that drawn on a map joining places having the same height above mean sea level.
continent	One of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded, or mainly surrounded, by sea, and usually consisting of various countries
landscape	The landscape is everything you can see when you look across an area of land, including hills, rivers, buildings, trees, and plants.
physical features	Features that are created by natural forces e.g. mountain, valleys, ridges, hills, rivers. Features that are created by human beings e.g. roads, bridges, dams, reservoirs, factories, houses.
human features	
county	A political division of the UK and Ireland, forming the largest unit of local government.
city	A town that has a cathedral.
mountain	A mountain is a large landform that rises above the surrounding land in a limited area, usually in the form of a peak.
river	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.
trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services.
environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.
settlement	A place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.
environmental change	Environmental change is a change or disturbance of the environment most often caused by human influences and natural ecological processes.
sustainability	A set of processes which aims to meet the needs of our generation while preserving the environment so that future generations can meet their needs too.

Rivers vocabulary flashcards:
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/rivers-topic-vocabulary-word-cards-t-tp-7230>

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