<u>Fluvial</u> Landforms

Shaped by Running Water





• Water Flowing in a Channel



Fluvial Processes

- Erosion
- Transportation
- Deposition



Erosion by Water

- Removal of Rock/Soil
 - 1. Splash Erosion
 - 2. Sheet (Slope) Erosion
 - 3. Stream Erosion



1. Splash Erosion

Impact of Raindrops on Soil





2. Sheet (Slope) Erosion

From Overland Flow
 Dry or Humid Areas?

Sheet (Slope) Erosion

Removes Top Soil Layer

Flash Floods

- Rapid Overland Flow
- Directed to Cyn



Badlands • From Severe Sheet Erosion

The Big Badlands Badlands National Park - 214,000 acres

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A R. A HOLE

NY 1122

Badlands, Death Valley

1.1.1.1.1.1

• Site of Flash Floods

3. Stream Erosion

- Erosion of Stream Bed & Banks
- 2 Main Ways
 - Hydraulic Action (Suction)
 - Abrasion



Hydraulic Action (Suction)

• Force of H_2O

- Removes Loose Rocks & Sediment



Abrasion

- Solids carried in the Stream
 - Grind Bed & Banks







Suspended Load \rightarrow Muddy Water

• Main Load in Large Rivers



River with Suspended Load



<u>Bed</u> Load

- Heavier Solids
- Sand, Gravel, Boulders
- Sliding & Bouncing on Bed
- Cause of Abrasion



Heavy Bed Load

Dissolved • Invisible • Gives Taste to H₂O Load Dissolved load (in solution) Stream flow 32223 2 Suspended Turbulence load Rolling Sliding

Deposition

- When Water Slows Down
- Sediment
 Deposited by
 Water
 - -"Alluvium"



FLUVIAL LANDFORMS

Badlands

Stream Valleys

• V-Shaped - Why?



V-Shaped Valleys

1. Abrasion of Bed

"Downcutting" of Valley

2. Erosion & Landslides of Valley Walls



Base Level of Stream

- Lowest Limit of Downcutting
 - Potential Depth of Valley
 - Always Sea Level?
- Elevation of Water Body Stream Flows Into

Base Level of Colorado River?



Base Level Changes

• Dams...



Lateral Erosion

- Erosion of Banks
- When Stream is Close to Base Level
 Little Downcutting

Stream Velocity

- Fastest in middle
 - (on straight segment)

Channel

Valley wall

Width, w-

Area, A

(a)

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<u>Stream</u> <u>Meander</u>

- Bend of a Stream
- Faster Flow Inside or Outside?





- Inside or Outside Bank?
- Deposition on which bank?
- Deeper Water?



Lateral Erosion

• Changes the River Course



Lateral Erosion



Floodplains

- Wide Stream Valley
 - -Caused by Meandering
 - Subject to Floods



River Meanders & Floodplain



Delta

- Deposit of Sed At Stream's Mouth
- Nile Delta
 Delta
 Delta
 Delta



Deltas

 Sometimes shaped like "Bird's Foot" – Mississippi River



Delta coast (d)

Deltas

- Why formed?
- Stream Slows Down at Ocean
- But not all rivers have deltas

Niger River Congo River

- No Delta on Congo
- Ocean Currents...

Alluvial• Fan-Shaped Deposit of Sed.FansAt Base of Cyn-In Dry, Mtn Env



Alluvial Fan • Why in Dry Env? – Lack of Veg → Rapid Runoff & Erosion

Mudflows in Cyns

Desert Landforms

- Mostly Fluvial
- Cyns & Alluvial Fans



Cycle of Erosion

- Landscape Evolution
 Due to Fluvial Erosion
- 3 Stages
 - Youthful
 - Mature
 - Old Age



Youthful Landscape



 High Above Base Level • Fast Streams • Rugged, Deep Cyns

Mature Landscape

• Rounded Hills • Meandering Begins



(b)

Mature Landscape



Old-Age Landscape

- Flat
- Close to Base Level
- Lots of Meandering



Rejuvenation

- Old Age Landscape Can be Made Youthful
 - EQuakes Lift Land Above Base Level —
 - Streams Resume
 Downcutting —



Entrenched Meanders

Uplift of Old-Age Meandering Stream