

## RIVERS

Rivers are formed when **precipitation** (rain or snow) from the tops of hills or mountains runs down the steep slopes. A young river moves very quickly because gravity is pulling the water down. The river slows down as it nears the **mouth** (the end) of the river because the ground is flatter.



Sometimes, smaller rivers or streams merge into the main river. These are called **tributaries**.



As the water slows down, **meanders** are created. These are bends in the river where the water has **eroded** the landscape. **Erosion** occurs when the force of the water rubs away at the surface of the landscape, changing its shape.

Rivers **transport** materials like rocks, stones and sand. The force of the water carries these materials along in the river's flow. The faster the river runs, the heavier the objects it is able to carry. Nearer the mouth of the river, only sand or very small stones are able to be transported because there is less energy due to a smaller gravitational force.



The materials carried along by the water are often **deposited** near the mouth of the river. These deposits are known as **deltas** or **estuaries**. Deltas can also occur when two rivers meet and one river cannot transport the sediment the other river gives it. The sediment then builds up on the land.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the Fact File then answer these questions:

Why does a river have to start near the top of a hill or mountain?

What is a tributary?

What is a meander and how is it created?

Why is a fast river able to carry heavier objects than a slow one?

Name two ways a delta can occur:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the Fact File then answer these questions:

What is a 'young' river?

Why does a river slow down as it  
nears the mouth?

How does erosion cause meanders  
in the river?

What is a tributary?

Explain the process of transportation  
in your own words:

How does erosion cause changes in  
the landscape?

How are deltas formed?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How a river begins and ends

Erosion



**River Facts!**



Transportation

Deposition

# The journey of a river

**source**

**mouth**

**tributary**

**meander**

**erosion**

**transportation**

**deposition**

**delta**

**precipitation**

**spring**

**gravity**

**force**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the Fact File then answer these questions:

Why does a river have to start near the top of a hill or mountain?

**The gravitational pull of the slope lets the water from precipitation form into a young river.**

What is a tributary?

**Tributaries are when smaller rivers or streams merge into the main river.**

What is a meander and how is it created?

**Meanders are bends in the river as it slows down. They are made by the water eroding the landscape as it flows over or around it.**

Why is a fast river able to carry heavier objects than a slow one?

**A faster river has more gravitational pull. This gives it more energy to carry heavier objects.**

Name two ways a delta can occur:

**Deltas can occur near the mouth of the river as it deposits materials it is carrying as it slows down. It can also occur where two rivers meet and one cannot carry the materials the other was carrying.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the Fact File then answer these questions:

What is a 'young' river?

**A young river is a new river which moves very quickly because of gravity.**

Why does a river slow down as it nears the mouth?

**A river slows down because it has less of a gravitational pull.**

How does erosion cause meanders in the river?

**The force of the water rubs away at the land, changing its shape.**

What is a tributary?

**Tributaries are when smaller rivers or streams merge into the main river.**

Explain the process of transportation in your own words:

How does erosion cause changes in the landscape?

**Rivers can erode the land creating valleys.**

How are deltas formed?

**Deltas are formed when the river has less energy and any materials that they are carrying are deposited.**