

Follow a River

Summary

A river is a waterway that flows across land. Each river has a source and has its own path. Most rivers end when they meet an ocean, lake, or another river. Rivers reshape the land through erosion and deposition. The amount of erosion depends on a river's speed. Rivers that flow rapidly over steep ground carve out valleys. Rivers that flow slowly over flat ground form curves, loops, or bends in the landscape. The deposition may take place on opposite banks of the same river, at the mouth of a river to form a delta, or across a floodplain.

Before Reading

Activate Prior Knowledge

Provide background for students by previewing the book. Discuss the text features and preview the key vocabulary and concepts.

Vocabulary

delta, deposition, oxbow lake, rivulets, runoff, sediment, tributaries

Comprehension Skill: Sequence

Remind students that sequence is the order that a set of events follows. Have students think about sequence as they read about the way rivers form and rivers change the land.

During Reading

Think Critically

Have students answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

- 1. What are the possible sources of a river?** A river may begin as a melting glacier, snow, or rain. It may form from spring or a lake.
- 2. When a river erodes the landscape, what are the possible results?** Over

time, the erosion can create valleys, canyons, caverns and caves, and waterfalls.

- 3. What is an oxbow lake? How is it formed?** An oxbow lake is a lake that is formed when a river changes course, cutting off one of its bends.

After Reading

Writing in Science

In this book, you have read about the life of a river. Write to explain how a river changes the landscape using the processes of erosion and deposition. Use examples from the book.

Organize Information

Graphic Organizer: Sequence Have students complete the Sequence chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to list, in order, the events that help a river form.

Related Resources

Vocabulary Cards	Equipment Kit
Every Student Learns	LabZone
Activity Flipchart	Quick Study
Graphic Organizer Transparencies	
Quick Activity Transparency	
www.pearsonsuccessnet.com	

Write your answers.

1. How do rivers help people?
Rivers provide transportation, food, water, and energy.
2. Why do some rivers flow more quickly than others?
The shape of the land determines how fast a river flows.
3. How does a delta form? What does it look like?
Deltas are formed as gravel, sand, and mud are deposited by a river and build up over time. Deltas often have a fan shape.
4. Several things must happen for a river to form. Place these things in order: Runoff begins to trickle down the mountain; the young river grows with each added tributary; snow melts from the top of a mountain; several runoffs flow together to form a small stream, or rivulet.

Possible answer: Sequence

