




Agents of Erosion and Deposition

Sci
G

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1 Which of the following describes the process of **erosion**?

- A the chemical breakdown of rocks
- B the physical breakdown of rocks
- C the removal of smaller rock particles
- D all of the above




2 Streams and rivers are constantly eroding and shaping the landscape. The Mississippi River, for example, erodes and moves 436,000 tons of sediment every single day. All the materials that a river or stream carries is called the river's or stream's _____.

- A discharge
- B load
- C gradient
- D drainage




3 The river pictured here erodes its channel **wider** rather than deeper and does not have a steep gradient. This river is described as a _____ river.

- A youthful
- B mature
- C suspended load
- D rejuvenated



4 It is possible for a dramatic tectonic event to uplift a portion of the earth's crust on which mature rivers had previously run, thus suddenly **increasing** the river's **gradient**. The river begins to **cut more deeply** into the uplifted sediments, making this now a(n) _____ river.

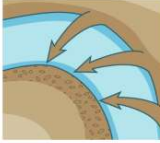
- A youthful
- B mature
- C old
- D rejuvenated



5 A **meandering river** winds over the landscape as seen in this picture. Rock and soil (called **alluvium**) is eroded on the outside of the meander and is deposited on the inside of the meander. The meandering river erodes alluvium on the outside of the meander, and deposits it on the inside of the meander because water flows **slower** on the **outside** of the meander.

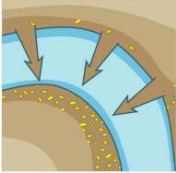
True or false?

- A true
- B false




6 Gold prospectors pan for gold on the **inside bank** of a meander in a mature river because the river _____.

- A runs faster on the inside bank pushing the gold into the sediments
- B runs slower on the inside bank, so the gold falls out of suspension
- C is shallower and safer on the inside bank
- D here is called the cut bank



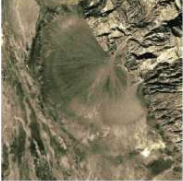
7 When moving water from a river empties into a standing body of water like the ocean, the sediments **fall out of suspension** and are deposited. The result is a triangular-shaped deposit known as a **delta**. Why do the sediments fall out of suspension?

- A the water loses energy and slows down
- B the water gains energy and moves faster
- C ocean water is colder
- D ocean water is warmer




8 When moving water transports sediments from a **mountainous or hilly area** into a **flat, low-lying plain**, the water suddenly slows down and the sediment is deposited in a triangular-shaped formation. Geologists call this triangular formation a(n) _____.

- A delta
- B flood plain
- C alluvial fan
- D meander



9 **Beaches** are large deposits of grains that have been eroded from rock for what scientists believe to be millions of years. The **type of sand**, such as the familiar tan-colored quartz sand, on a beach depends on _____.

- A how long waves have weathered the rock
- B how much energy the waves exert on a rock
- C the latitude of the beach
- D the source rock of the sand



10 In oceans, lakes, or rivers, **sediment deposition** can form _____.

- A beaches and sea arches
- B sea caves and wave-cut terraces
- C sandbars and barrier spits
- D sea cliffs and beaches





ANSWER KEY

Which of the following describes the process of **erosion**?

- A the chemical breakdown of rocks
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(d)

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(b)

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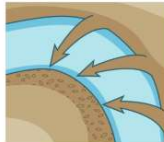


(d)

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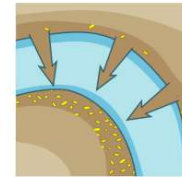
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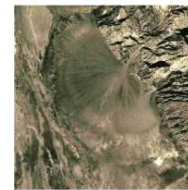
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(c)

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(c)