Section 6.2 The Work of Streams

This section discusses streams and explains how they help shape Earth’s surface.

Reading Strategy
Comparing and Contrasting  Preview the Key Concepts, topic headings, vocabulary, and figures in this section. List things you expect to learn about each. After reading, state what you learned about each item you listed. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the Reading and Study Skills in the Skills and Reference Handbook at the end of your textbook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I Expect to Learn</th>
<th>What I Learned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Erosion
1. How do streams erode their channels?

Sediment Transport
2. Circle the letter of the name for the material a stream carries in solution.
   a. bed load   b. suspended load
   c. dissolved load   d. mineral load

3. Circle the letter of what the large, solid material a stream carries along its bed is called.
   a. bed load   b. suspended load
   c. dissolved load   d. maximum load

4. Is the following sentence true or false? As a stream’s velocity decreases, its competence increases. ______________

5. A stream’s ________________ is the maximum load it can carry.

6. Is the following sentence true or false? Most streams carry the largest part of their load in suspension. ______________

Earth Science Guided Reading and Study Workbook  •  44
Chapter 6  Running Water and Groundwater

**Deposition**

7. When stream flow decreases to below the critical settling velocity of a certain size particle, ____________ occurs.

8. How does a delta form? ____________

9. Circle the letter that represents natural levees in the figure below.

   ![Figure with letter options](image)

**Stream Valleys**

10. Circle the letter that represents an oxbow lake in the figure above.

11. What shape will a stream valley have if its primary work has been downward erosion cutting toward base level?

12. A stream’s ____________ is the flat valley floor onto which it overflows its banks during flooding.

**Floods and Flood Control**

*Match each description with its term.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. earthen mounds built on river banks</td>
<td>a. artificial levees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. structures that store floodwater and let it out slowly</td>
<td>b. floods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. mostly caused by rapid snowmelt and storms</td>
<td>c. flood-control dams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drainage Basins**

16. A(n) ____________ is an imaginary line separating different drainage basins.

17. The land area that contributes water to a stream is known as a(n) ____________.