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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample answer: how erosion happens and what features it can form</td>
<td>Sample answer: Streams erode lifting loose particles by abrasion. Erosion forms wide V-shaped valleys.</td>
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Erosion

1. How do streams erode their channels?
   - by abrasion, grinding, and dissolving soluble material

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. ________false

5. A stream’s ________capacity____ 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. ________true
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Deposition
7. When stream flow decreases to below the critical settling velocity of a certain size particle, _______ deposition occurs.

8. How does a delta form? When a stream enters the still waters of an ocean or a lake, its velocity decreases and sediment is deposited to form a delta.

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

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? narrow V-shaped

12. A stream’s _______ floodplain 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. earthen mounds built on river banks</td>
<td>a. artificial levees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. structures that store floodwater and let it out slowly</td>
<td>b. floods</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. mostly caused by rapid snowmelt and storms</td>
<td>c. flood-control dams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Drainage Basins
16. A(n) _______ divide is an imaginary line separating different drainage basins.

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