



# Canarygeog Worksheet

## River Landscapes - Answers

1. What are interlocking spurs ?

They are the alternating hills that stick out into a river's path in the upper course. They are caused because the river doesn't have the force to erode them so it has to flow round them.
2. Explain how rivers erode at the river cliff.

On the side of the river bend the water is flowing at a greater velocity, the river has greater power at this point so it erodes the bank and bed on this side which is deeper.
3. What is floodplain ?

This is the flat area on either side of a river at the middle or lower course, which is often flooded.
4. Explain what alluvium is and what it is useful for.

Alluvium is the fine material, silt, that is left behind when a river floods, it is very useful for agriculture as it makes very good, fertile soil.
5. How are terraces formed ?

They form because at one time the sea level was higher than today so the rivers didn't have far to fall to the sea. When the sea level dropped, the rivers cut down further to reach the sea leaving the original terraces at a different height.
6. Explain what levees are and how they are formed.

Levées are formed when a river floods over its usual channel and when the flow slows down it deposits its load, The heaviest material is deposited first leaving mounds called levees at each side of the river channel.
7. What will happen to the delta of a river is the sea level goes up ?

The sea will flood over the delta, as the river would have less distance to reach the sea it will drop its load further upstream so the delta will retreat.

8. What will happen to the delta of a river if a dam is constructed in the middle course of that river ?

A dam will cause less water flowing in the river bed below it, the river will have less energy to carry load. Some of the load will be stopped by the dam. Less load will be deposited in the delta so the sea will erode the delta making it retreat.