



Canarygeog Worksheet

Rivers – Floods - Answers

1. Urbanisation increases the possibility of floods, in countries like the U.K. why are they still building on floodplains ?

There is a high demand for new housing in certain parts of the country as well as many industries demanding extra ground for expansion and new development. There is little brownfield ground left so they have to build on the floodplains.

2. How can a hydrograph show the effect land use has on the possibility of flooding ?

They show the volume of water flowing past a single point in the river over a period of time, if you compare several hydrographs over a period of time you can reach conclusions about the changes of the river's discharge.

3. Why do places downstream have more warning time of a flood ?

Because people higher upstream can communicate with them warning them about a high level of water flowing in the river channel which will eventually reach the lower town or villages.

4. Why do floods usually get bigger downstream ?

Because rivers get bigger as they flow downstream specially after tributary rivers have joined them adding more water to the main one.

5. Describe the causes of one flood you have studied.

As the question doesn't say where the flood has to be you can talk about an LEDC or MEDC, don't forget to give named examples. Remember not to confuse causes with effects.

Causes are :

- Heavy precipitation or prolonged precipitation
- Steep slopes
- Deforestation in the upper course or in the drainage basin.
- Destruction of natural vegetation.
- Urbanisation : land has been built on for houses, roads ...
- Natural waterways are blocked by litter or because they haven't been cleaned.

6. What are the disadvantages of hard engineering methods ?

Hard engineering is expensive and less environmental friendly than soft engineering, it also usually proves to be quite ugly.

7. What are the advantages of soft engineering methods ?

Soft engineering is cheaper and more attractive, they are usually methods which are designed to work with natural materials and are quite environmental friendly. Some of these measures attract wildlife as for example afforestation.