



read

River Landscapes

Hydrographs



quiz



The Big Picture

river valleys and processes

river landforms

River Landscapes

river management*

case study



Flashy vs Flat Hydrograph

Flashy – rapid response hydrograph posing a high flood risk.

- Steep slopes
- Impermeable rock
- Heavy/prolonged rainfall
- Urbanisation
- Deforestation

Flat – slow response hydrograph posing a low flood risk.

- Gentle slopes
- Permeable rocks
- Drizzle
- Deep, dry soils
- Afforestation



Key Terms



Baseflow – The normal flow of a river when sustained by groundwater flow.



Bankfull discharge – Level of discharge above which a flood will occur.



Falling limb – The reduced discharge following the peak discharge.



Hydrograph – A graph showing river discharge, related to rainfall, over time.



Lag time – The time difference between peak rainfall and peak discharge.



Peak discharge – The highest recorded discharge following a rainfall event.



Peak rainfall – The highest amount of rainfall per time unit (highest bar).



Characteristics of a Flood Hydrograph

