



read

River Landscapes

River Valleys



quiz



The Big Picture

river valleys and processes*

river landforms

River Landscapes

river management

case study



Key Terms



Cross profile – The side to side cross-section of a river channel and/or valley.



Long profile – The gradient of a river, from its source to its mouth.



River – A ribbon-like body of water that flows downhill from the force of gravity.

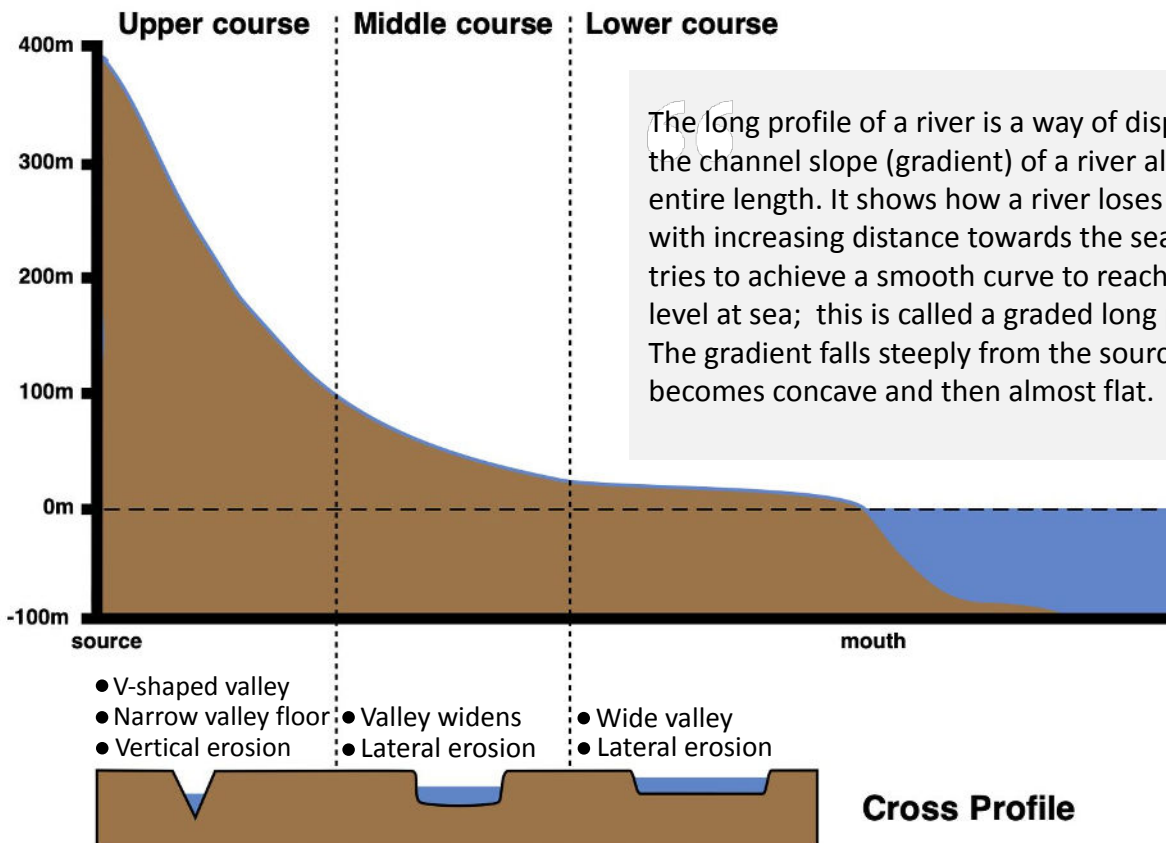


River valley – A low stretch of land between hills with a river flowing in it.



Long Profile

Long Profile

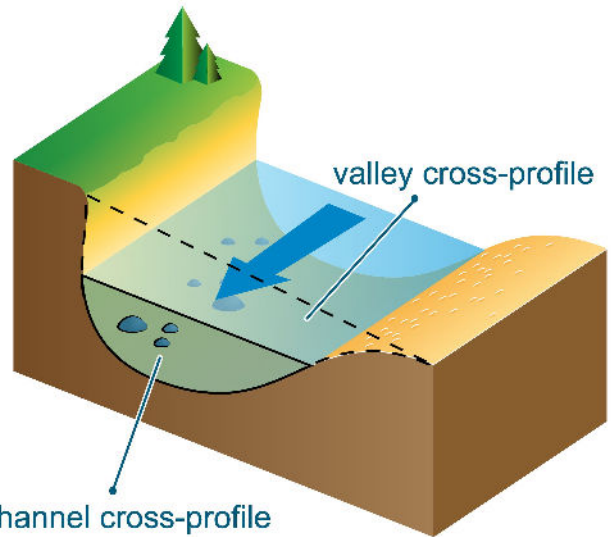


Cross Profile



Cross Profile

River cross profiles are a cross-section, taken sideways, of a river's channel and/or valley at certain points in the river's course. A **channel cross-profile** only includes the river whereas a **valley cross-profile** includes the channel, the valley floor and the sides of the valley.



The long profile of a river is a way of displaying the channel slope (gradient) of a river along its entire length. It shows how a river loses height with increasing distance towards the sea. A river tries to achieve a smooth curve to reach its base level at sea; this is called a graded long profile. The gradient falls steeply from the source then becomes concave and then almost flat.

