



read

River Landscapes

River Erosion



quiz



The Big Picture

river valleys and processes*

river landforms

River Landscapes

river management

case study



Key Terms



Abrasion – Rocks carried along by the river wear down the river bed and banks.



Attrition – Rocks transported by the river collide and become smaller and rounded.



Erosion – The wearing away of rock and soil found along the river bed and banks.



Hydraulic Action – The force of water compressing air in cracks, weakening river banks.



Lateral erosion – Sideways erosion by a river on the outside of a meander.



Solution – Soluble particles are dissolved into the river.



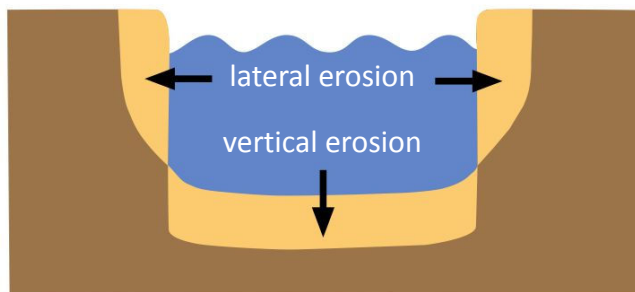
Vertical erosion – Downward erosion of a river bed.

Horizontal erosion, through hydraulic action and abrasion occurs in the **middle course** of the river. Attrition also occurs here.

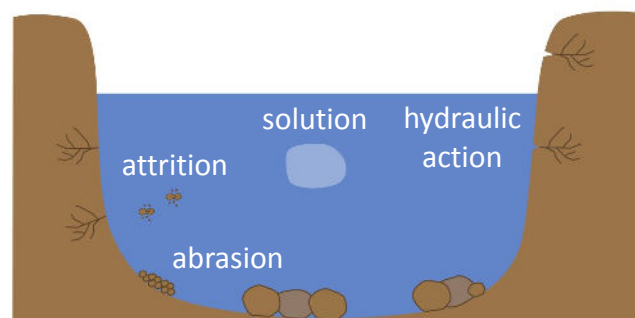
In the **lower course** meander migration widens the valley.



Lateral and Vertical Erosion



Processes of River Erosion



Vertical erosion, through hydraulic action and abrasion is the dominant process of erosion in the **upper course**.

