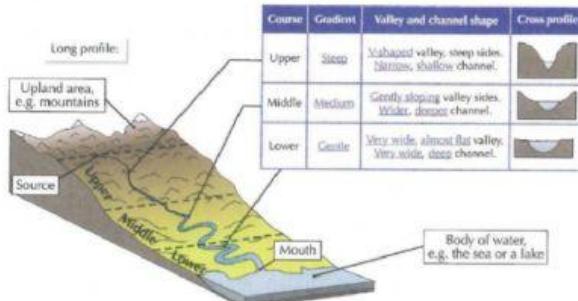


The River Valley

You need to know what happens to the shape of a **river valley** and a **river's gradient** as it flows downhill.

A River's Long Profile and Cross Profile Vary Over Its Course

- 1) The path of a river as it **flows downhill** is called its **course**.
- 2) Rivers have an **upper course** (closest to the **source** of the river), a **middle course** and a **lower course** (closest to the **mouth** of the river).
- 3) Rivers form **channels** and **valleys** as they **flow downhill**.
- 4) They **erode** the landscape — **wear it down**, then **transport** the material to somewhere else where it's **deposited**.
- 5) The **shape** of the **valley** and **channel** changes along the river depending on whether **erosion** or **deposition** is having the **most impact** (is the dominant process).
- 6) The **long profile** of a river shows you how the **gradient** (steepness) **changes** over the different courses.
- 7) The **cross profile** shows you what a **cross-section** of the river looks like.



Answer the questions below based on the information above.

- 1) The gradient in the upper course of a river is _____.
- 2) A gently sloping valley with a medium gradient is characteristic of the _____ course.
- 3) The mouth of the river is closest to the _____ course.
- 4) You will see the steepest slopes of the river valley in the _____ course.
- 5) If you were looking for an oxbow lake, you would need to visit the _____ course.