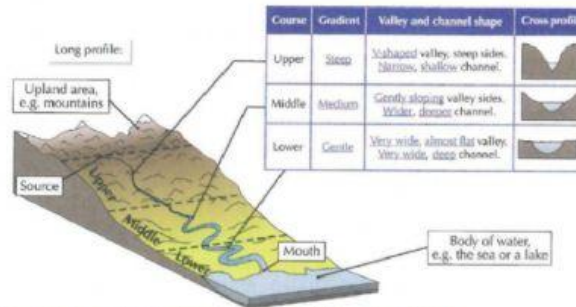
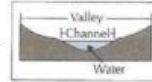


The River Valley

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.