

Formation of floodplains and levees

Diagram:

Stage 1

- Under normal conditions, the river is contained within its banks.
- No sediment is available to create levees.
- A wide, flat valley is caused by meanders shifting along the valley.

Diagram:

Stage 2

- During high rainfall and discharge, the river bursts its banks.
- Larger material is deposited next to the river channel as speed/energy is lost
- Smaller material is carried further away from the river.

Diagram:

Stage 3

- After repeated flood events, layers of material build up alongside a river to form a floodplain.
- Levees either side of the river are increased in height.
- A fertile, flat floodplain is created, which is ideal for farming.

Challenge questions:

a) What important role do the levees play in **managing** a river?

b) Why is it **good** for a river to flood?

Formation of estuaries

Key points:

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From the video:

1. What is an estuary?
2. What recreational uses are estuaries popular for?
3. What natural features do they have?
4. What protection do estuaries provide?
5. What educational uses do estuaries have?

