



read

River Landscapes

Erosional Landforms

quiz



The Big Picture

river valleys and processes

river landforms*

River Landscapes

river management

case study



Key Terms



Fluvial landforms – Landforms formed by river processes.



Gorge – a narrow, steep sided valley, often formed as a waterfall retreats.



Interlocking spurs – Ridges projecting out on alternate sides of a valley.



Plunge pool – A deep depression at the base of a waterfall.



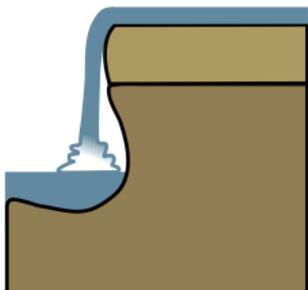
Vertical erosion – Downward erosion of a river bed.



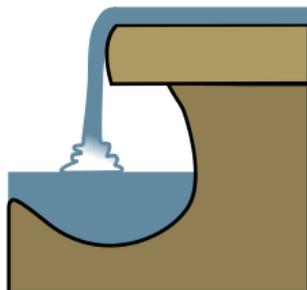
Waterfall – A sudden descent of a river or stream over a vertical or very steep slope in its bed.



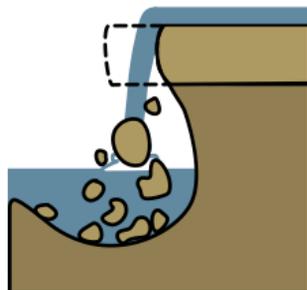
Waterfall



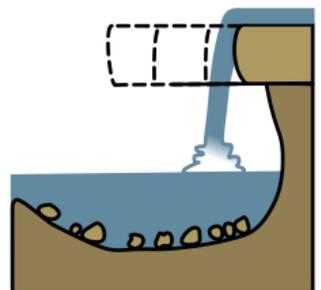
1. Waterfalls occur in the upper stage of a river where a band of hard rock overlies a softer rock. Falling water and rock particles erode the soft rock below the waterfall, creating a plunge pool.



2. The soft rock is undercut by erosional processes e.g. hydraulic action and abrasion creating a plunge pool where water and debris swirl around eroding the rock creating an overhang.



3. The layer of hard rock overhang above the plunge pool collapses as its weight is no longer supported.



4. Erosion continues and the waterfall retreats upstream leaving behind a gorge.



Interlocking Spurs

vertical erosion so spurs are not eroded

interlocking spur

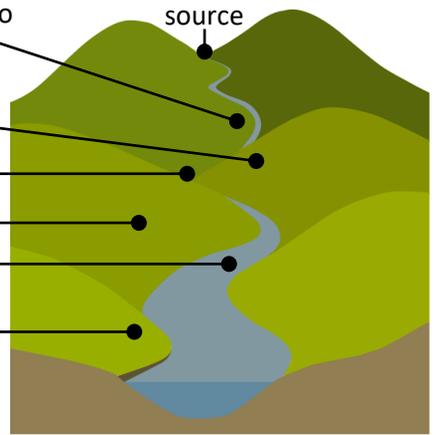
v-shaped valley

convex slopes

narrow valley

floor

spur



Gorge

