



read

River Landscapes

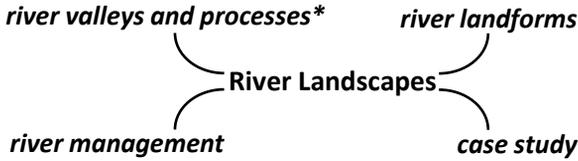
River Valleys



quiz



The Big Picture



Key Terms



Cross profile – The side to side cross-section of a river channel and/or valley.



Long profile – The gradient of a river, from its source to its mouth.



River – A ribbon-like body of water that flows downhill from the force of gravity.

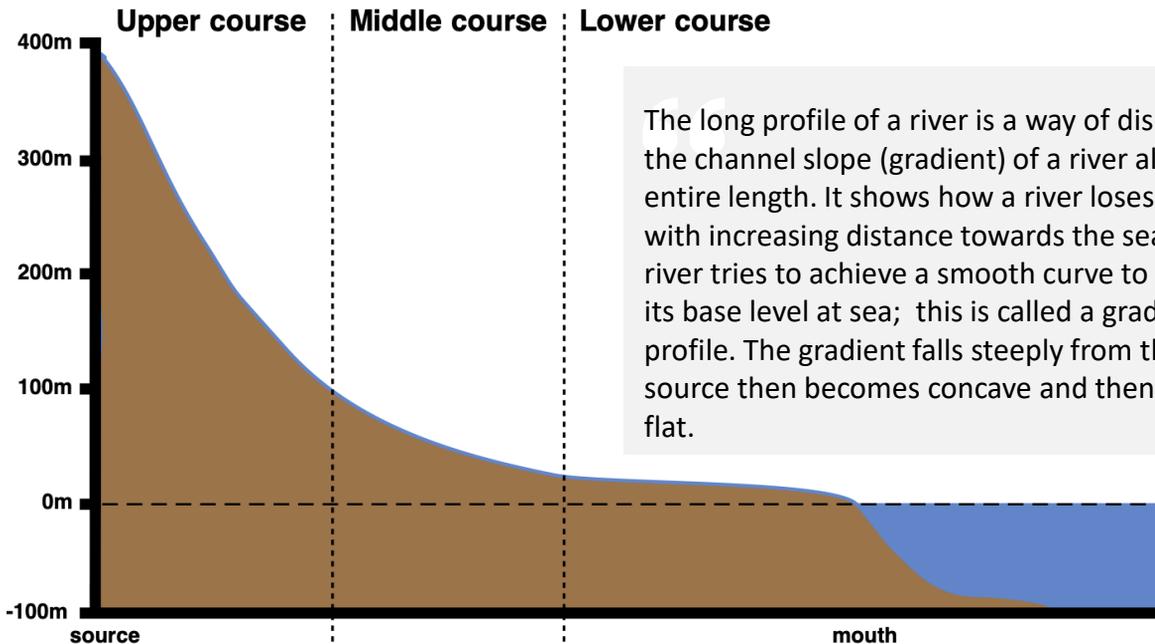


River valley – A low stretch of land between hills with a river flowing in it.



Long Profile

Long Profile



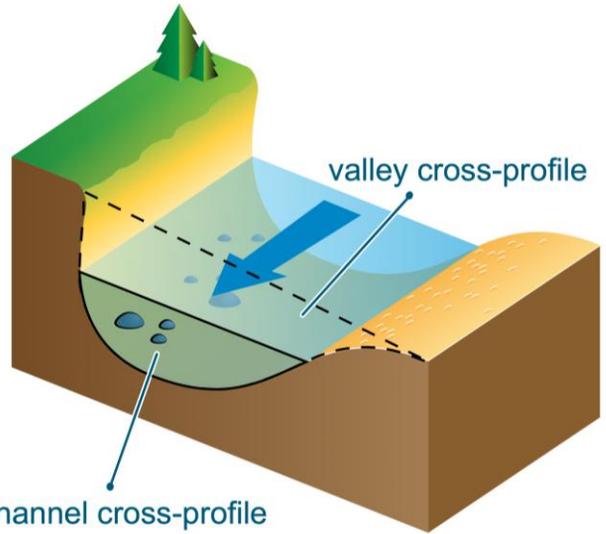
The long profile of a river is a way of displaying the channel slope (gradient) of a river along its entire length. It shows how a river loses height with increasing distance towards the sea. A river tries to achieve a smooth curve to reach its base level at sea; this is called a graded long profile. The gradient falls steeply from the source then becomes concave and then almost flat.

- V-shaped valley
- Narrow valley floor
- Vertical erosion
- Valley widens
- Lateral erosion
- Wide valley
- Lateral erosion



Cross Profile

River cross profiles are a cross-section, taken sideways, of a river's channel and/or valley at certain points in the river's course. A **channel cross-profile** only includes the river whereas a **valley cross-profile** includes the channel, the valley floor and the sides of the valley.



Cross Profile