

ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY.

SUBJECT- GEOGRAPHY /CLASS VII

CHAPTER- 3 OUR CHANGING EARTH (MODULE-2/3)

(HANDOUT of MODULE 2/3)

Sub topic:- MAJOR LANDFORMS OF THE EARTH.

Weathering, water, elevation, sinking, and erosion of the soil are constantly shaping the surface of the Earth. It doesn't really happen overnight but takes hundreds and thousands of years. . These are the natural processes that lead to various formations of the Landforms. In this module, I am going to discuss the major landforms of the earth and the work of the river.

Landforms originate from these geological processes.

External Process:-

External process means effects caused by the external factors such as rain or wind. *Erosion* occurs when material on the surface like soil and rocks which are called *sediments* are deposited or dropped off in a different location

Internal Process:-

Needless to say, internal processes occur inside the surface of the Earth, beneath the crust. The internal process, are like *volcanic eruption* and *Plate tectonics*

Landforms can be categorized into: - a) Mountains b) Plateaus and c) Plains

DEFINITION OF THE RIVER

Rivers are powerful and dynamic geological agents. The water flowing through a stream performs three kinds of geologic works as erosion, transportation and deposition. Hence, a river is considered as one of the geological agents on earth. The flowing water has the force, velocity and power to generate electricity

Most rivers begin life as a tiny stream running down a mountain slope. They are fed by melting snow and ice, or by rainwater running off the land. The water follows cracks and folds in the land as it flows downhill. Small streams meet and join together, growing larger and larger until the flow can be called a river.

Three Stages of a River

- **FIRST STAGE (UPPER COURSE) – V- Shaped Valley**
- **SECOND STAGE (MIDDLE COURSE) – Meanders**
- **THIRD STAGE (LOWER COURSE) – Floodplains**

Rivers can be short or long, wide or narrow, fast or slow. There are 165 'major' rivers in the world, and more than ten thousands of smaller ones.

The most important rivers in the world:-

- The Amazon River.
- The Nile.
- The Danube River.
- The Mississippi River.
- The Ganges River.
- The Yellow River.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest country without a river.

The most important rivers in the India:-

There are nine important rivers of India and they are: The Ganges, Yamuna (a tributary of Ganges), Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Narmada, Godavari, Tapi, Krishna, and Kaveri. Parts of the Indus River also flow over Indian soil. Eight important rivers together with their various tributaries comprise the river system of India.

Work of a river

- i. The running water in the river erodes the landscape. When the river tumbles at steep angle over very hard rocks or down a steep valley side it forms a waterfall.
- ii. As the river enters the plain it twists and turns forming large bends known as meanders.
- iii. Due to continuous erosion and deposition along the sides of the meander, the ends of the meander loop come closer and closer. In due course of time the meander loop cuts off from the river and forms a cut-off lake, also called an ox-bow lake.
- iv. At times the river overflows its banks. This leads to the flooding of the neighboring areas. As it floods, it deposits layers of fine soil and other material called sediments along its banks. This leads to the formation of a flat fertile floodplain. The raised banks are called levees.
- v. As the river approaches the sea, the speed of the flowing water decreases and the river begins to break up into a number of streams called distributaries. The river becomes so slow that it begins to deposit its load. Each distributary forms its own mouth. The collection of sediments from all the mouths forms a delta.

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