

GIZMO Copy
of KWAL 5 -
River Erosion

learnexams

Student Exploration: River Erosion

Vocabulary: cutbank, discharge, erosion, flood, floodplain, meander, meandering river, oxbow lake, point bar, river speed, sediments, slope, streambank, streambed, tributary, weathering



Prior Knowledge Questions (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. The image above shows a raging mountain river in full **flood**. What do you think is making the water brown in color? **Dirt**
2. What impact do you think the flooding river will have on the surrounding landscape? **Erosion**

Gizmo Warm-up <https://www.explorelearning.com/>

If you stand by the bank of a river, it may seem that very little is happening. But over thousands and even millions of years, rivers can have a profound effect on the landscape. In the *River Erosion* Gizmo, you will see how rivers move materials and how they affect landscapes.



To begin, check that **Mountain stream** and **Short-term erosion** are selected. The Gizmo shows a typical stream that is moving through a hilly area.

1. The two movie cameras (🎥) allow you to observe different parts of the stream up close. Click on the left movie camera. What do you see? **I see fish swimming in the water & some rocks.**
2. **Sediments** are small rock fragments such as sand or pebbles. What evidence do you see that sediments are being transported? **How the water is flowing & the fish moving right.**
3. Now select the right movie camera to see the bank of the mountain stream. What is happening to sediments on the bank? **It eroded & then it fell into water.**