RUNNING WATER
How does running water help shape our Earth?
Running water is the most common agent of erosion

Stream - running water that is confined to a channel

Tributary - smaller streams that flow into a larger one
Flood Plain - nearly level plain that borders the river
Levee - mound of sediment that parallels the course of the river that prevents flooding

Built by Army Core of Engineers
Delta - landform that forms from deposition of sediment at the mouth of a river due to slower-moving water

The Nile River Delta
Ewaso Nigiro River Delta
Streams carry sediment in various ways:

- Dissolved minerals in solution
- Solid particles are suspended in water
- Larger particles are usually carried by rolling, bouncing, or sliding along the stream bottom
• **Stream Velocity** - the speed of the stream
  
  • **Gradient** - slope of the stream
  
  • **Discharge** - amount of water that flows past a given point for a given period of time
  
  • **Channel Shape** - shape of the stream bed where the running water is confined
Variations in Stream Velocity:

- When a stream channel is straight the greatest velocity is in the middle.
- When a stream channel curves the greatest velocity is on the outside of the curve.
**Variations in Stream Velocity:**

- Deposition
- Erosion
Stream Characteristics:

- V-Shaped Valley - downcutting of a stream
Stream Characteristics:

- **Meanders** - as a stream gets older it begins to shift its course in a series of bends
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Meandering Stream
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Grandpa is Crazy
Stream Characteristics:

- **Oxbow Lake** - a curved lake formed from a cutoff bend of the river
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Oxbow Lake