

The stages of a river

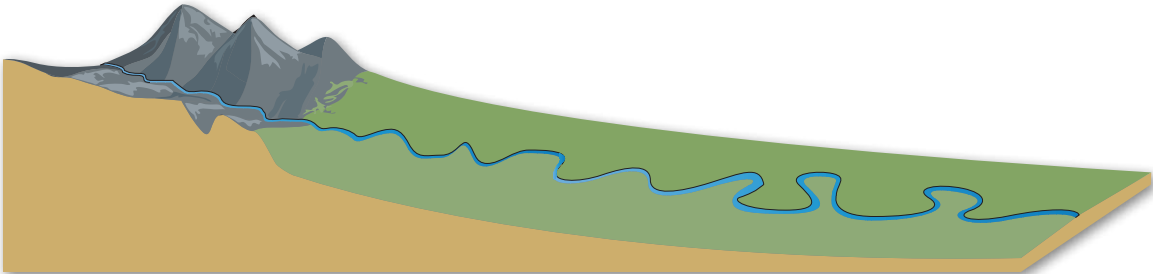
Stage:

Youth
(upper course)

Maturity
(middle course)

Old age
(lower course)

Gradient (or slope)
of river flow (long profile):

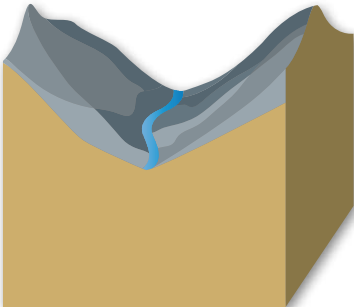


steep slope

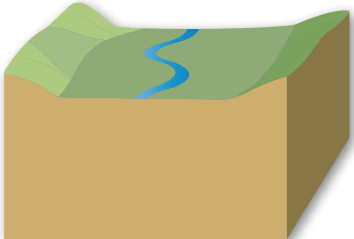
gentle slope

almost flat

Valley shape:



V-shaped



wide trough



plain



downwards erosion



big meanders