

Write your notes
about what you are
reading in this space.

Science Shorts -7

Deposition

After rocks are weathered and carried away they pile up some place. Where rocks and sand pile up is called deposition. Each type of erosion causes different types of landforms to be created. Rivers bring the sand and soil from the mountains down to the beach. As ocean waves pound the shore they wash away the coastline and take the sand to another beach. As glaciers melt and slide down the sides of mountains they carry away huge quantities of rock and soil. Wind blows sand and soil from one place to another.

When fast moving rivers meet the ocean, they slow down. When they slow down the sand and soil, called sediment, they are carrying begin to sink to the bottom and begin to pile up. After many years the river forms a delta. A delta is a landform that is deposited where a river flows into an ocean or a lake.

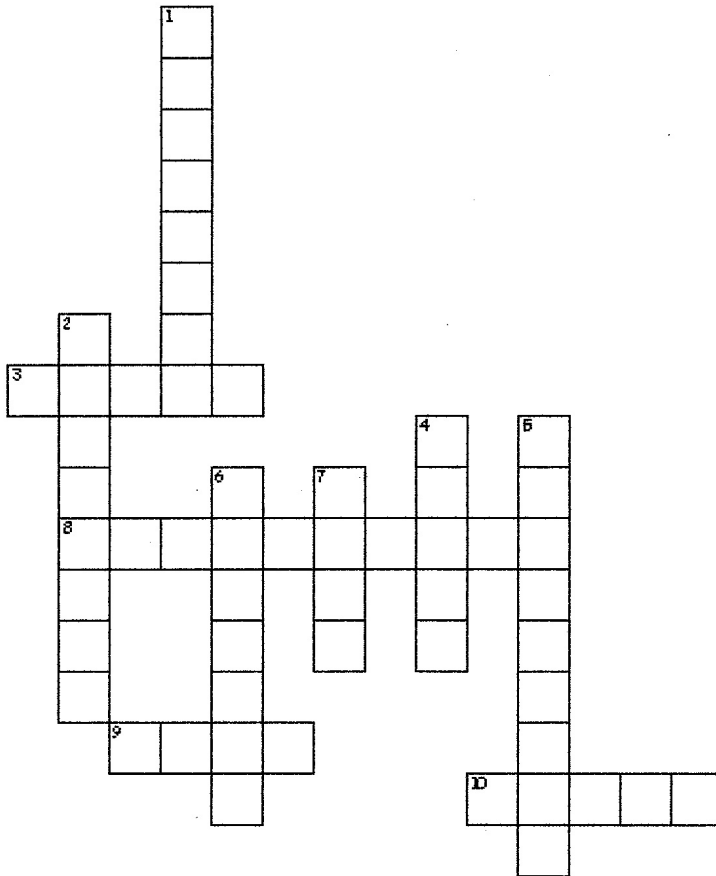
Before some rivers get to the ocean, they form meanders. These looping curves are formed in a river that is on gently sloping land. If you look closely, you will see one side of a meander has a small deposit of sand like a beach while the river is eroding the other side.

A beach along the coast can be formed from sediment from a river or the land. The rain washes the sediment down toward the ocean and deposits it along the edge of the sea. A beach is wave-washed sediment along a coast.

As glaciers slide down the mountains, they scrape down to the bedrock. They also scrape the sides of the valley in which they are traveling. When they do all of this they pick up rocks and sediment on the bottom and on the top. When the glaciers melt they leave all of the rock and sediment behind. This deposit is called till. When the till is in a ridge it is called a moraine.

Wind by itself is the weakest agent of erosion. Deposits of wind blown sand are called sand dunes. When wind meets an obstacle, the result is a sand dune. Sand dunes can be seen on beaches and deserts where windblown sediment has built up. Sand dunes come in many shapes and sizes. Some are long while others are U-shaped. They can be very small or very large – some sand dunes in China have grown to heights of 500 meters.

Deposition



Across

3. The landform that is deposited where a river flows into an ocean or lake
8. When rocks and sand pile up
9. The weakest agent of erosion
10. Wave-washed sediment along a coast

Down

1. The mixture of sand and soil
2. Looping curves in a river
4. Place where some sand dunes are 500m high.
5. Deposits of wind blown sand
6. When glacial till is found in a ridge
7. The sediment that is left after a glacier melts