

Rivers don't just erode, they also transport and deposit material.

Transportation means the movement of sediment like pebbles, sand and dissolved materials.

Deposition is when material is dropped off, as the river no longer has the energy to carry it.

There are four main processes of transportation.

Firstly, traction. This is when the largest rocks and boulders are rolled along the riverbed.

Second is saltation, where smaller material like pebbles are bounced along the riverbed in a hopping motion.

Third is suspension, when fine light material like clay or silt is carried within the water, making it look muddy or cloudy.

The fourth process is solution when rivers flow over rocks like chalk and limestone. Minerals are dissolved in the water and are carried invisibly.

So that's river transportation processes. Now let's look at deposition.

Deposition occurs when rivers lose energy. For example, when they slow down.

This can be on the inside bends of meanders, on floodplains or at the river mouth. Here sand and silt build up over time.

By studying these processes of transportation and deposition, we can see how rivers move material and shape landscapes.