

I'm looking at how the process of erosion can create different landforms in rivers.

In the upper course of the river near the source, rivers flow down steep slopes.

Gravity helps the river erode vertically, cutting down into its bed, making the channel deeper.

Vertical erosion cuts down into the valley floor while weathering and gravity loosen the material on the valley sides. This causes slopes to collapse, creating a steep-sided V-shaped valley.

Where harder rock outcrops resist erosion the river winds around them, leaving ridges of land jutting out. These are called interlocking spurs. They make the river's course look like it zigzags through the landscape.

Waterfalls are created when a layer of harder rock sits above softer rock. The softer rock erodes more quickly, undercutting the hard rock, creating an overhang which river water plunges over.

Waterfalls retreat or move back upstream when the overhang collapses, leaving a narrow, steep-sided gorge.

So, by exploring V-shaped valleys, interlocking spurs, waterfalls and gorges, we can see how erosion creates distinctive and interesting landforms.