

Part 2: Shaping the Land through Erosion

You have seen how water in the form of waves shape the land near coasts. However, water running downhill is the primary (main) source of this movement of rock and soil in California. This process of water and other factors picking up and moving sediment is called **erosion**. Most of the sediment falls into the river due to the large movement of water and **runoff** (any water that is not absorbed and stays on the surface). Rock can also be worn away by the flow of water as it bumps into the bottom or sides of a stream (see Figure 3). In addition, there are other ways water shapes the land.

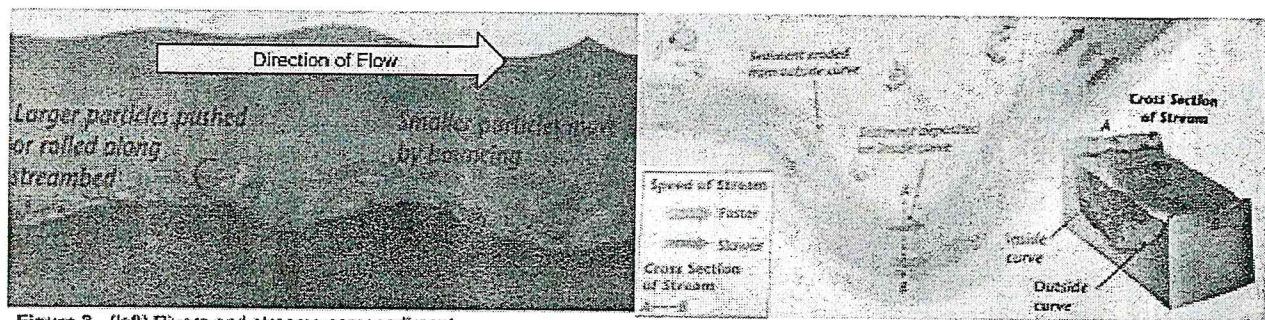


Figure 3. (left) Rivers and streams carry sediment.
(right) A river erodes sediment from its sides/banks on the outside curve and deposits its sediment on the inside curve.

6. Erosion shapes the land/rocks by:

1. **Runoff** creates streams/ivers
2. **ROCKS** can also erode by bumping into bottom or sides of the stream.

7. Write heading in your own words. Do not use physical and weathering.

Weathering Rock Physically

How is a large mountain broken down into tiny grains of sand? The process of breaking down rock is called **weathering**. Physical forces like wind and water freezing may break or chip rocks into smaller pieces. Liquid water is a physical weathering agent. Rocks