

Rolling Down the River

Donna awoke on a bright Monday morning and looked out her window. She gasped and ran downstairs to her back porch. “What in the world has happened here?” she wondered aloud.

To her surprise, she heard her neighbor Robert reply, “I don’t know but at least we don’t have a flood anymore!”

Later at the Town Hall meeting, the residents of the town are having a heated discussion over their problem. The room was packed to the brim and people were yelling over each other.

“Where did the river go? All that’s left in my backyard is mud and rocks “ said Donna.

“The river rerouted itself, which is a natural process. When the flood waters receded, the river took the path of least resistance. For our town, this meant in another direction. Luckily, no homes or buildings were in the way!” explained David, the local geologist.

“What is this going to do to the land? What about the erosion?” asked someone in the back of the room.

“I paid good money for waterfront property, how am I supposed to kayak in a muddy ditch? All that is left is sediment and deposits from the river” declared Robert, Donna’s neighbor.

“What I want to know is what are we going to do about this? I think we need to put the river back where it belongs. I liked it where it was and presently it is just ruining our land” shouted Scott.

“Well, that is one option and it would require us to dam up the existing river. Our other option is to let nature take its course. The area that the river is now flowing was part of the flood plain so there isn’t much there for it to damage” said David.

“But building a dam will be expensive, and I don’t want my money going towards that. Besides, my backyard is a monstrosity! It looks awful! I think we need a vote!” said Donna

“Donna, you are right. Let’s have a debate for both sides and then we can all vote on the best option,” answered David.

Rolling down the river
Elizabeth Sheehan & Antione L.Ford

Map of the River's Path

Greens, K. (2006). Whether to tame a wayward river. Retrieved October 15, 2008 from <http://www.nhpr.org/node/10963>

Instructions: Please fill this out and turn in *one per group*. Some suggested Facts and Learning Issues are included but feel free to add your own. If additional room is needed, use the back of this sheet.

Facts	Hypotheses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The river rerouted itself.• There was a flood.	
Learning Issues	Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the definition of path of least resistance?• What is erosion? How does erosion affect earth's surface?• What will happen to the wildlife and fish as a result?• If the river is returned to its original path, what will happen in the next flood?	

Group Members: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Boxchart	All sections filled out completely.	3 sections filled out	2 sections filled out	1 section filled out
Lab 1	All predictions, observations, and questions correctly completed.	Lab turned in but 1 part not completed.	Lab turned in but 2 parts not completed.	Did not turn in lab.
Lab 2	All predictions, observations, and questions correctly completed.	Lab turned in but 1 part not completed.	Lab turned in but 2 parts not completed.	Did not turn in lab.
Debate	Information presented is correct, supported by evidence, and clear. All group members contributed. Discussion is respectful of others.	Information is mostly correct. Most group members contribute.	Information is not correct or is unsupported. Few group members contribute.	Presentation is incomplete and disorganized.
Individual Participation	Homework completed, made contributions to group work, worked well with other group members.	Completed some homework and made contributions to group but was not always on task.	Completed minimal homework and made minimal contributions to the group.	Did not complete homework or contribute to the group.

Self-Evaluation Worksheet

Date: _____

Your Name: _____ Group #: _____

Instructions: Please circle the response with which you agree the most. This evaluation will only be read by your teacher and will not be shown to other students.

1. How would you rate *your* participation in group discussion and group work?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

2. How would you rate *your* effort in completing the case?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

3. Did *you* complete the assigned homework? **Yes** **No**

If No, explain why:

4. How well did *you* work with everyone in your group?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

5. Overall, how would you rate *your* performance in this case?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Poor

6. What praise or criticism do you have for other group members? What are your thoughts about the case?
