

Case Details

Case Title:

Rolling down the river

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Grade Level(s):

Middle School

Subject(s):

Earth Science

Summary:

Donna woke up to find the river in her backyard had completely disappeared. What will the townspeople do now that the river has re-routed itself after a flood? Should they reroute it back or leave it? And what will this do to the land? The final decision will be left to a vote after the townspeople debate both sides.

Suggested Citation:

Ford, A. L., & Sheehan, E. (2008). *Rolling down the river*. Retrieved June 03, 2012 from Emory University, CASES Online Web site:
http://www.cse.emory.edu/cases/casedisplay.cfm?case_id=908

Notes:

This case was inspired by a story published in the New York Times: Zezima, Katie. (2006, May 29th). A River Cuts a New Course, Leaving a New Hampshire Town High and Dry. New York Times. Retrieved September 15, 2008 from <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/29/us/29river.html>

Learning Objectives:

1. Define the terms erosion, sediment, flood plain, and deposition.
2. Describe how a river erodes the land over time.
3. Gather facts and support for one side of a debate.

National/State Standards:

Georgia Performance Standards

S6CS1. Students will explore the importance of curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism in science and will exhibit these traits in their own efforts to understand how the world works. (NSES Content Standard A) a. Understand the importance of and keep honest, clear, and accurate records in science. b. Understand that hypotheses are valuable if they lead to fruitful investigations, even if the hypotheses turn out not to be completely accurate descriptions.

S6CS2. Students will use standard safety practices for all classroom laboratory and field investigations. (NSES Content Standard A) a. Follow correct procedures for use of scientific apparatus. b. Demonstrate appropriate techniques in all laboratory situations. c. Follow correct protocol for identifying and reporting safety problems and violations.

S6E3. Students will recognize the significant role of water in the earth processes. (NSES Content Standard D)

S6E5. Students will investigate the scientific view of how the earth's surface is formed. (NSES Content Standard D) c. Describe processes that change rocks and the surface of the earth e. Explain the effects of physical processes (plate tectonics, erosion, deposition, volcanic eruption, gravity) on geological features including oceans (compositions, currents, and tides).