Non-Fiction Article Cloze Exercise

Name _____ **Date** _____

YOUR TASK Choose words from the bank to complete the passage. Use each word once. Two words are extra.

01 WORD BANK

source	tributaries	erosion	valley
channel	transportation	load	sediment
meander	floodplain	deposition	mouth
delta	evaporation	waterfall	

02 COMPLETE THE PASSAGE

Most rivers begin in hills or mountains, where rainwater and melting snow gather. The place where a river starts is its _____[1]. As it flows downhill, smaller streams called _____[2] join it and add water. Over a long time, flowing water can wear away rock and soil. This wearing-away process is called _____[3]. Rivers often cut a long, sloping _____[4] through the land.

In the upper course, the land is usually steep and the current can be fast. The river flows in a _____[5]—the route followed by the water. It can pick up and carry material downstream. The movement of this material is called _____[6]; the material carried by a river is its _____[7]. It may include dissolved minerals, fine _____[8] and larger stones. Faster water can carry heavier pieces than slow-moving water.

Further downstream, the slope is often gentler. The river may swing from side to side in a looping bend called a _____[9]. After heavy rain, it can overflow its banks and spread across the flat land beside it. This area, which may flood, is a _____[10]. When the water loses energy, it drops some of its load. This process is called _____[11].

Finally, the river reaches the sea or a lake at its _____[12]. If enough material is deposited there and is not carried away, it can build up into a low, fan-shaped area called a _____[13].

03 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. What happens to a river’s load when the water loses energy?

2. Give one difference between the upper and lower course described in the passage.