



Deposition Data – Student Activity

A river and its sediments



As rivers carry sediments down from the mountains to the sea overall grain size deposited on the stream bottom decreases. This is due to friction decreasing the carrying power of the river. The heaviest material is dropped out first.

Hydrologists (people who study water) took sediment specimens from five locations five kilometres apart along a riverbed, so they could calculate the proportions of coarse, medium and fine materials on the riverbed.

Your Task

1. Can you use the evidence below to work out in which sequence the specimens were taken? In the table write in the sequence in which the sediments were taken from number one in the mountains to number five at the river mouth.
2. Draw a graph comparing their findings at the highest and lowest point of the river valley.

Location	Specimen size	Coarse	Medium	Fine	From Mountain
Bob's Bridge	10kg	4kg	4.5Kg	1.5kg	
Lazy Bend	30kg	6kg	9kg	15kg	
The Crossing	10kg	3 kg	3kg	4kg	
The Lump	20Kg	7kg	7kg	6kg	
Mann Road	5 kg	1kg	1kg	3kg	