

TWO RIVER VALLEYS



This is the Green River Valley in Colorado. It cuts deeply into the layers of rock and soil. The bank of the river is several hundred feet high.



This is the Sacramento River Valley in California. The banks of the river are just a few feet high. Frequent floods have made the surrounding farmland very fertile.

photos by Lisa Wells, Vanderbilt University

1. Compare these two meandering rivers. In your opinion, what might explain why one river has cut so deeply into the rock and soil, while the other river has cut a very shallow basin?

2. What evidence—from what you can see in the pictures, or from any experiments you may have done—supports your theory?