

Loads of Work: Student Activity Sheet



LOAD DEFINITION: Any material carried by water. Examples include dissolved nutrients, soil particles, and trash.

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
How many of each player was in the simulation?	Water: Soil: Plants:	Water: Soil: Plants:	Water: Soil: Plants:
How much "load" was where at the end of the round?	Riparian Area: Plants & Soil: River:	Riparian Area: Plants & Soil: River:	Riparian Area: Plants & Soil: River:
What changed? Why?			



Directions: With your partner, look at the photograph below and write some possible answers to the questions.

Part 1

What is this photograph depicting?

What are some interesting features of the photograph?

What type of ecosystem is shown in this photograph?



Image source: Air Photo North America

Part 2

What features of the riparian zone make it different from the surrounding environment?

Why do the differences listed above occur?



Activity Follow-Up Questions: Pick one of the following scenarios with you partner and describe how the ability of the riparian zone to hold a water's load will be affected. Consider whether the amount of load kept in the riparian zone, river water, plants and soil will increase or decrease and why.

1. A storm causes a big flood with 10 times more water flowing through the riparian zone.
2. A fire burns the vegetation in the riparian zone.
3. A developer cuts all the vegetation and builds a new waterfront apartment building.
4. Cattle grazing along the river trample the riparian vegetation.
5. A waste water treatment plant begins discharging waste water to the riparian zone.
6. Drought causes the river to run dry.

Scenario Number: _____

Description of Effects on the Riparian Zone: