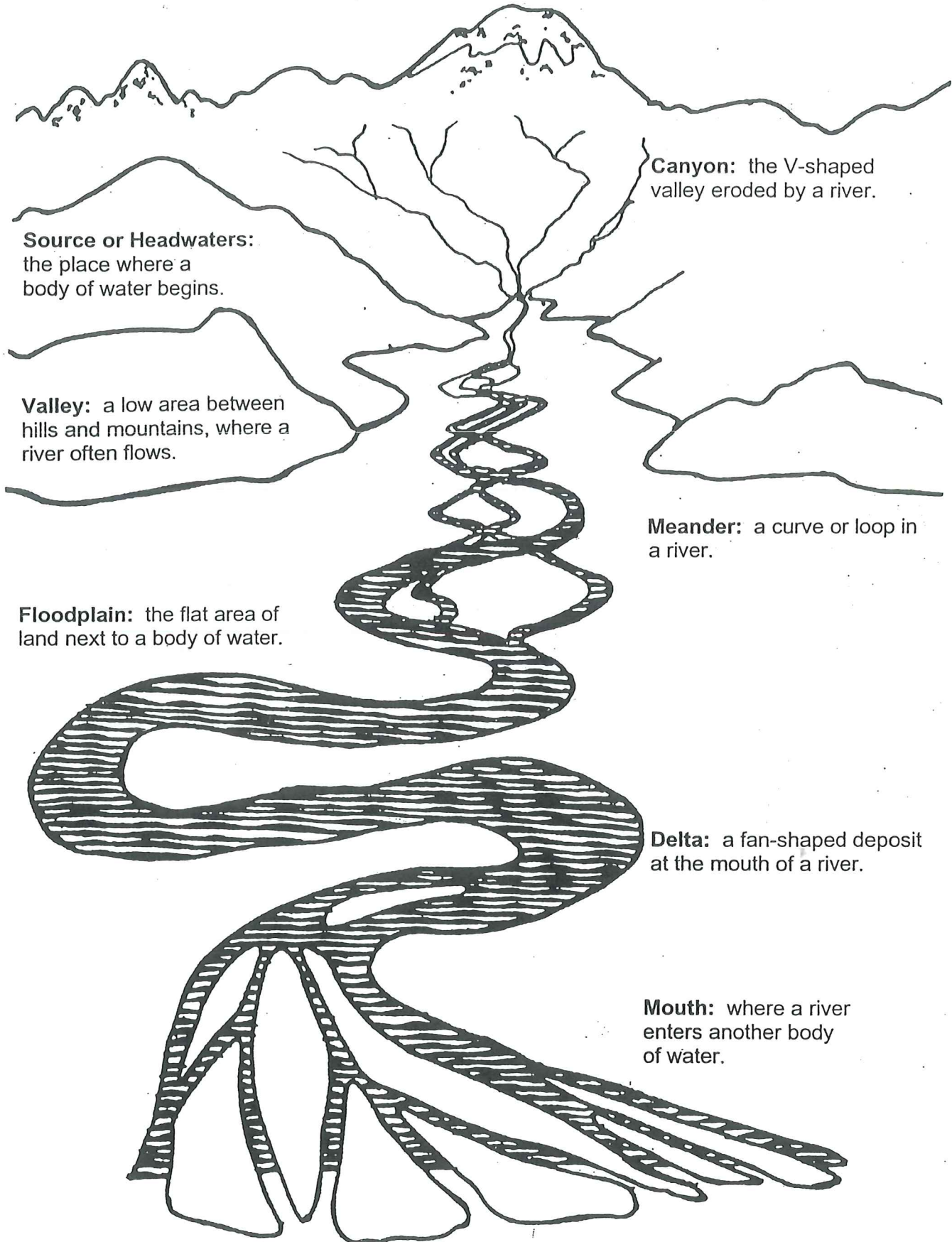


Landform Vocabulary



Source or Headwaters: the place where a body of water begins.

Valley: a low area between hills and mountains, where a river often flows.

Floodplain: the flat area of land next to a body of water.

Canyon: the V-shaped valley eroded by a river.

Meander: a curve or loop in a river.

Delta: a fan-shaped deposit at the mouth of a river.

Mouth: where a river enters another body of water.

Chapter 3 - Habitat Study

What is a Healthy Stream Habitat?

Studying the health, type, and condition of the habitat along the stream banks and corridor is crucial in determining the health trends of the stream. The condition of land within and adjacent to the stream channel is critical to the health of the stream and its ability to support aquatic life.

A natural stream channel provides a variety of habitats for many species of plants and animals.

Pools, riffles, undercut banks, and snags (fallen limbs or small log piles) all provide different types of habitat. The more types of habitat present in a stream system, the greater the potential for aquatic plant and animal diversity.

A uniformly straight or deep channel provides less potential habitat than a stream with variable flows and depths. Examples of healthy and unhealthy stream habitats are shown in the figure

