

TOPIC 5: FLASH FLOODS

READ: Flash floods can occur in this type of landscape, very suddenly. After weeks and months of little or no rain, a sudden storm can soon fill to overflowing the empty river channels with terrifying force.

During a flash flood, any wide, shallow, dry valleys (or oueds), as seen in the photograph, become raging torrents with much devastating power.

People, property, livestock, farmland, infrastructure (e.g. roads and bridges) are all at risk.



TASK:

(a) By looking at a dry valley 'out-in-the-field', fully describe the bedload materials on the floor of the dry valley.

SAMPLE COPY

(b) Is there any evidence that the river channel has recently had a flash flood or is there evidence that there has not been water flowing in this channel for a long time?

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(c) Why do you think that flash floods occur in this type of location/environment? (CLUE: Think back to previous work on this topic the day you crossed over the High Atlas).

REPRODUCTION

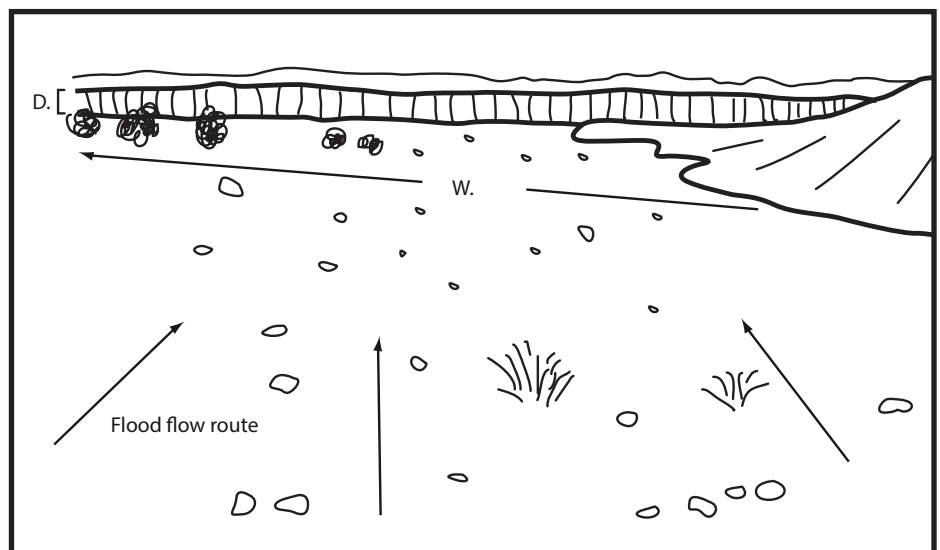
The following sketch is based upon the previous photograph.

It is given to indicate the measurements that will now be taken.

(d) By pacing,

(i) Estimate the width of the floor of the river channel.

(ii) Convert this figure into an approximate number of metres (and call it W).



W = _____ metres