Floods, Floodplains & Levees

Let’s take a look...
Floodplains

• A floodplain is the land surrounding a waterway, into which flood waters spill.
Floodplains

In this riverbed map, the river is in blue.

Over time and with flooding, a river changes its course.

It moves in and out of its floodplain.
Floodplains

• When rivers flow through areas where many people live and work, what happens when the rivers flood?
Flooding

- Flooding becomes a problem in areas with many people.


Downtown New Orleans after hurricane Katrina, 2005.
Levees

- Engineers design and build levees, dams and dikes to keep fast-moving and dangerous flood waters away from people’s homes and roads.

People with shovels repairing a Mississippi levee, 1903.
Levees

• The power of water is strong.
• Look at these broken levees:
Image sources


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Floodplain and meander history

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Repairing a Mississippi levee, 1903.


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