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Natural Erosion Can Be Good

Adapted by Fay Ferency from *Soil Erosion and How to Prevent It*, by Natalie Hyde (2010)

Erosion is happening all the time. Natural erosion can be good. It helps create valleys. It also brings nutrients to places that need them.

Erosion creates floodplains. A floodplain is the land on either side of a river. Floodplains have lots of nutrients.

When a river floods, the water rises. It deposits nutrients in the land along the side of the river. This makes the river banks good for growing many kinds of crops.



Fertile floodplains along the Nile River in Egypt

Moving water also erodes rocks from the sides and bottom of a river. These little bits of rocks are called sediment. The river carries the sediment and leaves a triangle of land at the end of the river called a delta. A delta is good for growing crops, too.

Finally, natural erosion is good because it creates beautiful things. When wind and

water erode rock, interesting shapes can be formed, like arches or bridges.