

Watershed Activity Sheet:

How Sediment Moves in Water

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please use the terms in the Word Bank to complete the following sentences and fill in the diagram.
Have fun!

There are three main ways that streams move (transport) sediment—these are known as the three different loads.

Some minerals dissolve and are moved as part of the dissolved load. Fine particles (like silt and clay) are carried by the water as the _____. It takes more energy (higher flows) to move the larger particles—these are known as the _____.

This load has two main ways of moving downstream. Small pebbles are lifted up and bounce along the stream bed. This is known as _____. Larger particles (cobbles and boulders) move by rolling and sliding. This movement is known as _____ movement.

When the particles sliding along the bottom of the stream stop moving, they can stack up and form an overlapping pattern known as imbrication. In this pattern, the top of the rocks point in the direction that the stream is flowing. Draw an arrow over the rocks shown in the picture to the right to show the stream flow direction!

