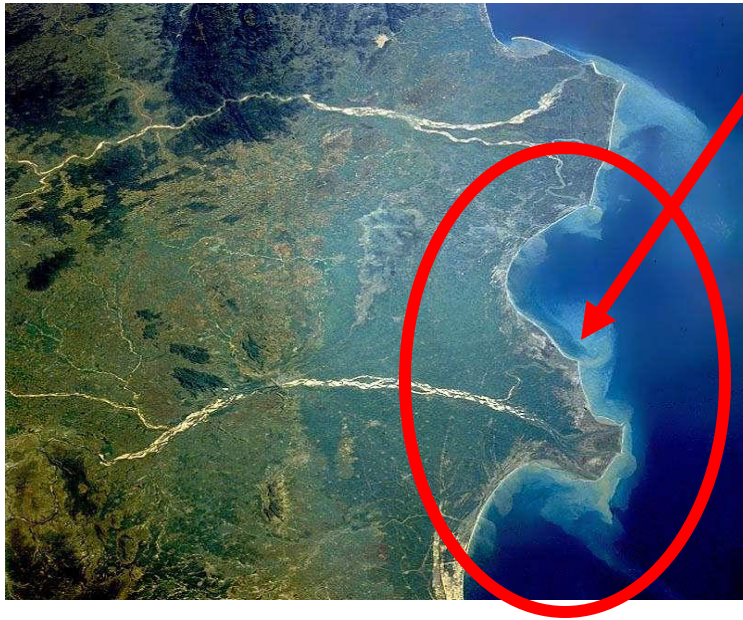


River Deltas

- 1.3.4 Explain how deltas are formed. (k)
- 1.3.5 Contrast the terms arcuate delta, digitate delta, and estuarine delta. (k)

Delta (P.32)



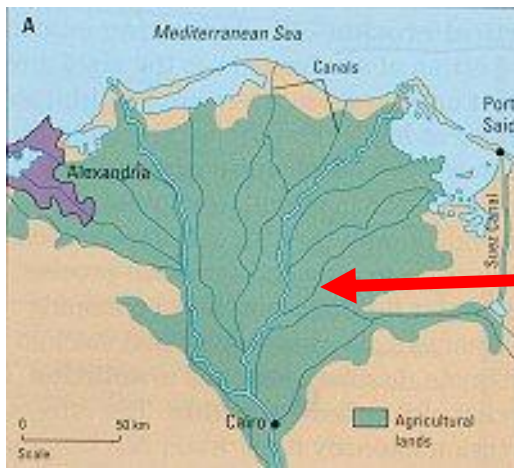
Delta =

- low lying area at mouth of river
- formed by deposition of silt
- deposition occurs because river slows as it enters ocean or lake

River Deltas

- There are three types:
 - arcuate
 - digitate
 - estuarine

1) Arcuate Delta (P. 32)



- Named from Latin word for “*curved in the shape of a bow*”.
- Fan shaped
- Example: Nile Delta
p. 32







2) Digitate Delta



- From Latin for *finger*
- Delta with long fingers of sediment reaching into the sea
- Example: Mississippi Delta





3) Estuarine Delta p. 32



- Formed when river runs into bay or estuary
- Tidal mud flats form which can be seen at low tide
- Sediment deposited from river outflow and from tidal inflow

3) Estuarine Delta p. 32

- Example: Seine River of France. This type of delta has a river that empties into a long, narrow estuary that eventually becomes filled with sediment (inside the coastline)

Delta: Similarities & Differences

Similarities

- Arcuate & digitate both flow into open ocean
- All three allow river water to flow out
- All have channels or distributaries cut into them by the river

Differences

- Estuarine empties into a bay whereas other 2 empty into open water
- Three different shapes

To the right is a satellite photo of the Amazon Delta, notice the tidal flats or islands that cover and uncover with the tide



This picture below shows a small estuarine delta in Notre Dame Bay, NL

