Formation of a Delta

Draw your own annotated (means more than labelling, using sentences around a diagram to explain) to show how a delta was formed. Include the following:

- mouth
- load
- large
- deposition
- calm
- flocculation
- distributaries (opposite to tributaries)

When a river reaches a lake or the sea the velocity is reduced therefore slows down, the river loses the power to transport sediment (material). The sediment is dropped at the mouth of the river. Generally the area is very calm or the load is so big that large ways cannot remove all of the sediment deposited by the river). It builds up in layers forming a delta. In order for a delta to form the river must be carrying a large load.
Annotated diagram showing the formation of a delta

Deltas can come in different shapes:

There are three types of delta:

- **Arcuate** — have a rounded shape and lots of distributaries, e.g., the Nile delta.
- **Cuspate** — have a triangular shape and few distributaries, e.g., the Tiber delta.
- **Bird’s foot** — wait for it... are shaped like a bird’s foot, e.g., the Mississippi delta.