

Mountain valleys and waterfalls

Many mountain valleys owe their spectacular features to the recent Ice Age.

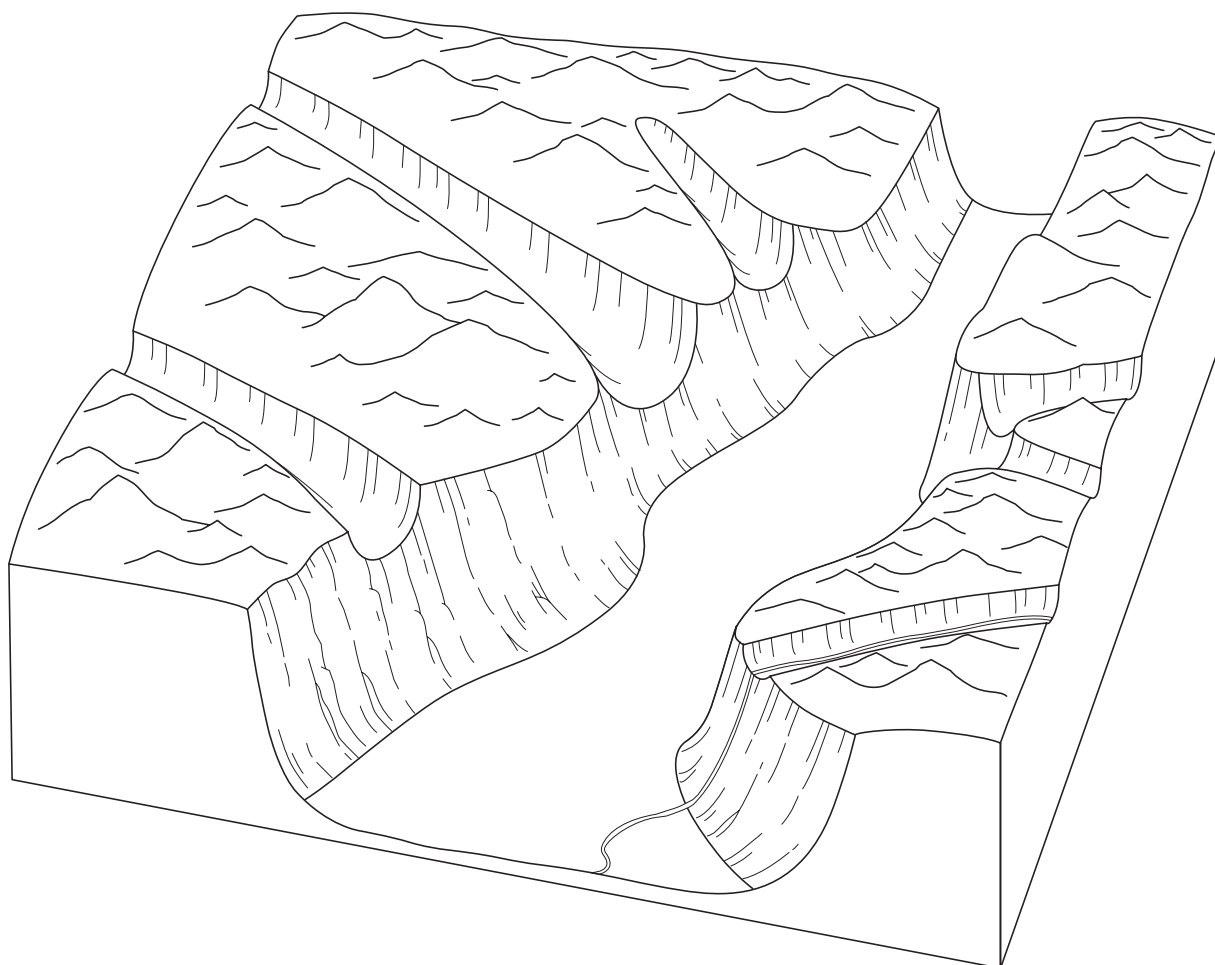
Q1. What letter of the alphabet is used to describe the shape of a valley that was once filled by a glacier?



Q2. What kind of valley produces a waterfall?



Q3. The diagram below shows a valley that has been scoured by ice. The ice has now melted away. Mark in the new rivers and waterfalls. One waterfall has already been drawn in for you.



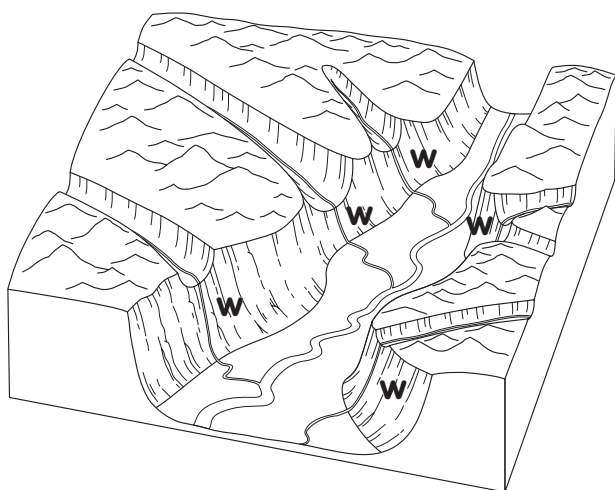


Answers

1. **U-shape when seen end-on. The valley is also straight, with none of the sharp twists and turns that are formed in river valleys.**

2. **Hanging valley.**

3. **See diagram below.**



Notes

This diagram gives a good opportunity to show the main features of a mountain environment which has recently been abandoned by glaciers. In general, the Ice Age finished about 10–12,000 years ago, a very short time on the scale of shaping a landscape, and so many landscapes are little altered from this time.

The main features that students should notice are the U-shaped valleys and the hanging valleys from which waterfalls flow.

They will also need to remember these features when tackling later spreads about how the landscape influences the way people use mountains.

You could extend this worksheet, either now or later, by asking students what would happen if a dam were built across this valley – i.e. it would flood the valley and destroy a precious part of the mountain scenery, but at the same time it would stop flooding, and provide water that could be used for power. This is a common issue of how best to use the mountain environment.