



Block diagram illustrating position of floodplain, high terrace, and upland on the landscape.

Landscape Position:

- **Floodplains** are areas near streams that flood periodically.
- **Terraces** are areas where the soils developed from older alluvial material and are above the zone of current flooding.
- **Upland depressions or drainage ways** soils that form on concave land forms or at heads of drainage ways and along waterways where surface drainage is retarded. Water tends to pond in these depressions and the soils commonly have a darker and thicker surface horizon because of organic matter accumulations.
- **Uplands** are unaffected by stream activity, are at a higher elevation and on rolling and convex positions

Parent Material:

- Soils formed from bedrock are said to have **residual** parent material.
- When rock fragments are moved by gravity or water down to a lower slope or a depression it is called **colluvium**. The rock fragments are sharp and angular not smooth like gravel.
- Streams and rivers overflow frequently and deposit new material on the floodplains. Since new material is added annually, the soil never has a chance to develop horizons. This type of parent material is called **recent alluvium**.
- Soils on stream terraces contain waterworn fragments and have parent material called **old alluvium**. They rarely flood.
- **Coastal Plain Sediments** comprise a large portion of Delaware's parent material. It is a complex series of water deposited sediments left by previous geologic events. You may still have recent alluvium in the Coastal Plain.