

What is weathering?



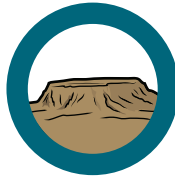
Weathering is the gradual breaking down of rocks and minerals on Earth's surface. There are two main types of weathering: physical and chemical. Physical weathering includes pressure, water and temperature changes. Chemical weathering includes oxidation, biological action and dissolution (the dissolving of certain kinds of rocks).

Chemical Weathering

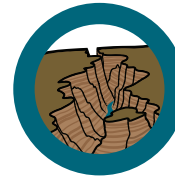


Dissolution contributes to the formation of many caves.

Physical Weathering

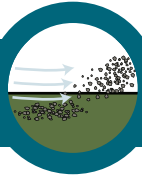


Temperature changes can cause weathering on mountains and rock formations.



Weathering by water contributes to the formation of canyons and valleys.

What is erosion?

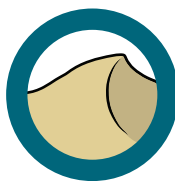


Erosion occurs when sediment and materials that are created by weathering are transported from one place to another. There are several ways that erosion can happen, such as through wind, water, ice and gravity.

Erosion



Wind and water both erode material from canyons.



Wind both builds and moves sand dunes in the desert.



Water moves sediment downstream through valleys to the ocean.



Both gravity and glaciers transport materials from mountains.