

WEATHERING & EROSION

Part 1: Read about weathering and erosion.

Weathering and erosion work together to change the environment. In nature, large things get broken down into smaller things. This can take a really long time, but sometimes it happens fast! Keep reading to find out more about weathering and erosion.

What is Weathering?

Weathering is a natural process that breaks apart or changes rock. Some of the natural forces that cause weathering include heat, water, wind, and living things. There are three main types of weathering: physical, biological, and chemical. Weathering, unlike erosion, breaks things up into smaller pieces but does not move them away.

What is Erosion?

Erosion is what moves the soil and tiny rocks that weathering leaves behind. The wind and water carry the sediment (small pieces of rock or sand) to a new location. Erosion can happen because gravity pulls soil downhill. It can also happen because of strong weather, like rain or wind. Erosion is a very slow process. It happens over many, many years.