

Weathering and Erosion

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Glossary

delta (DEL-tuh) an area of land at the mouth of a river formed from deposited sediment (15)

deposition (dep-uh-ZISH-uhn) the dropping of eroded sediment in a new location (10)

erosion (i-ROH-zhuhn) the movement of sediment (10)

flood (FLUHD) a large amount of water covering land that is usually dry (15)

glacier (GLAY-shur) a large body of ice that slowly flows downhill over land (17)

gravity (GRAV-uh-tee) the force that causes objects to fall toward Earth (19)

landform (LAND-form) a natural feature, or shape, on Earth's surface (4)

mass movement (MAS MOOV-muhnt) the movement of rocks and land by gravity (19)

mineral (MIN-uh-uhl) a solid, nonliving, naturally occurring substance; minerals are the building blocks of rocks (8)

mountain (MOUN-tuhn) a landform that is much higher than the surrounding land (4)

plain (PLAYN) a landform that is wide and flat (5)

plateau (pla-TOH) a landform that is flat like a plain but is higher than the surrounding land (5)

rock (ROK) a naturally occurring solid that is composed of one or more minerals (8)

runoff (RUHN-awf) rain or melted snow that is not absorbed into the ground but instead flows downhill over the surface of the land (14)

sand dune (SAND DOON) a hill of sand deposited and shaped by wind (18)

sediment (SED-uh-muhnt) pieces of minerals and rocks that are produced by weathering (8)

soil (SOIL) a mixture of sediment, water, air, and once-living material called humus (11)

topography (tuh-POG-ruh-fee) all the landforms in a particular region (4)

valley (VAL-ee) a landform that is located between hills or mountains and is much lower than the surrounding land (4)

weathering (WETH-uh-ing) the breaking down of minerals and rocks into smaller pieces by water, wind, temperature changes, and living things (8)