

Weathering and Erosion

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Glossary

delta (DEL-tuh) 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 place (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 moves downhill over land (17)

gravity (GRAV-uh-tee) the force that makes things fall to the ground (19)

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

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

mineral (MIN-uh-r-uhl) a solid, nonliving material found in nature; minerals make up rocks (8)

mountain (MOUN-tuhn) a landform that is much higher than the land around it (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 land around it (5)

rock (ROK) a natural solid that is made of one or more minerals (8)

runoff (RUHN-awf) rain or melted snow that does not sink into the ground but flows downhill across 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 made 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 an area (4)

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

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