

How Do Weathering and Erosion Shape Earth's Surface?

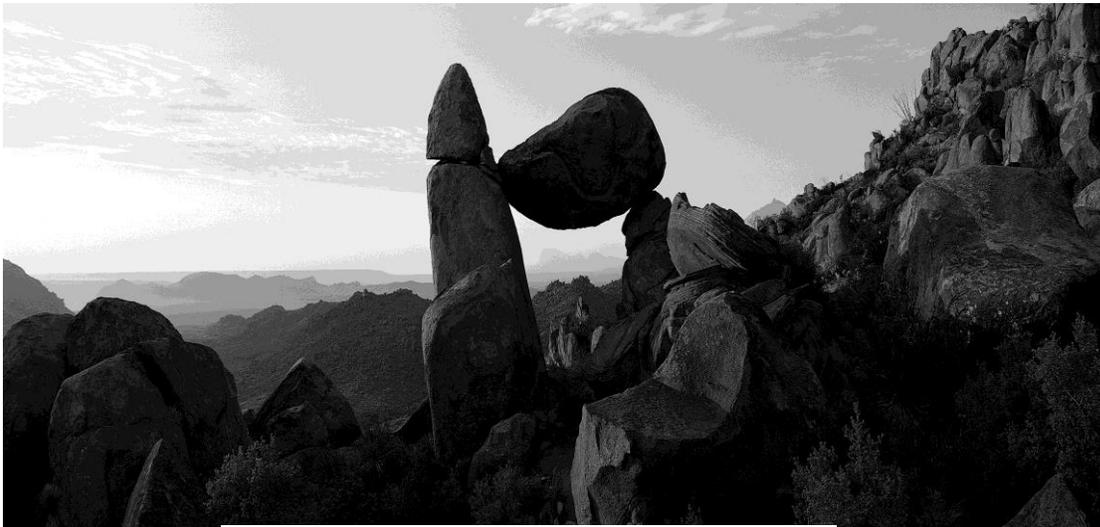
Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

weathering [WETH•er•ing] the process of rock breaking apart

Weathering may be caused by kinds of weather, such as strong winds blowing sand or raindrops that contain chemicals.



Weathering has changed the shape of these rocks.

erosion [uh•ROH•zhuhn] the process of moving weathered rock from one place to another

Erosion and *ocean* have similar sounds. One type of *erosion* takes place when big, ocean waves move sand around on the beach.

deposition [dep•uh•ZISH•uhn] the dropping of weathered rock by wind or moving water

Deposition contains the word *deposit*. A deposit in a bank is money left there for safekeeping. *Deposition* leaves a deposit of weathered rock.

sediment [SED•uh•ment] small bits of rock, such as sand and silt, carried by slow-moving water

Sediment, *sand*, *silt*, and *settle* begin with the same sound. *Sediment* is sand and silt that have not settled out of the water. Sediment moves with the water's flow.

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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. Weathering is the process of rock breaking apart.
2. Gravity can cause rocks to fall and break apart; flowing water can cause rocks to tumble and scrape each other.
3. Roots can grow into rocks and break them apart; wind and water can wear away rocks.
4. Wind and rain can cause erosion, or the moving of weathered rock from one place to another.
5. Moving water is one of the most common causes of erosion. For example, fast-flowing river water pulls rocks along the bottom of the river.
6. Slow-moving water can deposit rocks on the bottom of a river in a process called deposition.
7. Slow-moving water carries along small pieces of rock, such as sand and silt, called sediment.
8. Huge sheets of ice called glaciers flow like very slow rivers. As glaciers move, they pick up rocks.
9. Gravity can cause huge chunks of rock and soil to slide down a slope all at once. This is called a landslide.
10. Waves crashing on a rocky shore cause rocks to break apart. The waves cut cliffs and cause caves to form.