

Knowledge Organiser: Erosion and Deposition

The 3 Main Causes of Erosion

Erosion is mostly caused by three powerful natural forces:



1. Running Water

Rivers, streams, and heavy rain wash away soil and carve out deep valleys over time.



2. Strong Winds

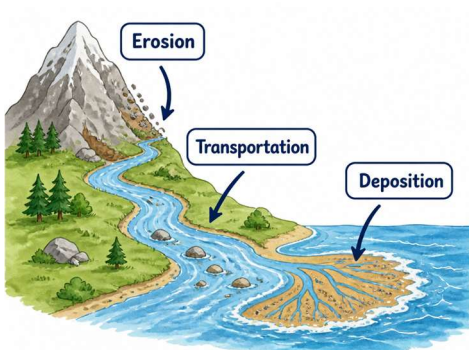
Wind picks up tiny grains of sand and blasts them against rocks, wearing them down.



3. Moving Ice

Glaciers are massive rivers of ice that slowly scrape the ground like gigantic bulldozers.

The Continuous Cycle



The Earth is always changing shape! Think of the Earth as a giant, unfinished sculpture.

1. Weathering: This is when rocks are broken down into smaller pieces by the weather, plants, or ice.

2. Erosion: This is how nature wears away the land and picks up the broken pieces.

3. Transportation: This is 'moving day!' Bits of rock and soil are carried away to a new place.

4. Deposition: When the water or wind slows down, it drops the materials, building new landforms.

Amazing Landforms

When moving water or wind slows down, it can't carry heavy materials anymore. It drops them! This is called **deposition**, and it creates incredible real-world landforms:



Beaches

Created when ocean waves drop sand along the coastline.



River Deltas

Created when rivers slow down and drop mud before entering the sea.



Sand Dunes

Created when the wind slows down and drops huge piles of sand.

Key Vocabulary 📖

Word	Picture	Definition
Weathering		When rocks are broken down into smaller pieces by weather, ice, or plants.
Physical processes		Natural actions that change the Earth, like rain falling or wind blowing.
Transportation		When bits of rock or soil are carried away to a new place by water, wind, or ice.
Sediments		The tiny bits of broken rock, sand, and soil that get moved around.

Time Check: Fast vs. Slow Changes ⌚



Not all changes happen at the same speed!

- **Slow Erosion (Centuries):** A river slowly making a valley deeper. This takes hundreds or thousands of years!
- **Rapid Erosion (Minutes):** A huge storm or a landslide can move tons of soil in just a few minutes.