

Wind Erosion and Deposition Strong winds also can erode and deposit weathered sediment. In some places, wind and water work together to weather and erode rocks and make them look so smooth and polished. The erosion and deposition of materials by wind can form different types of features on Earth's surface.

Drag and drop

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Land Features



Loess

Wind-deposited silt and clay is called loess. One type of loess forms from rock that was ground up and deposited by glaciers. Wind picks up this fine-grain sediment and redeposits it as thick layers of dust called loess.

Arches



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Sand Dunes

The shapes of dunes are mostly controlled by whether wind blows consistently in one direction or is more variable in direction. Some dunes can be many kilometers long. Grain by grain, sand dunes migrate in the direction the wind blows. Dunes can take on irregular shapes and are constantly changing.



Scoured and Sandblasted Rocks

Wind can bombard rocks on the surface with windblown sand, silt, or even ice, essentially sandblasting them. Many such rocks take on a smooth, polished appearance as sharp, rough spots are smoothed by debris. Others take on odd shapes like the rock shown here.

