



Read the text and do the exercises that follow it.

WEATHERING AND EROSION

The face of the Earth is always changing. The surface of the Earth is constantly exposed to water, wind, ice, and growing plants. Each of these can break down rocks into smaller and smaller pieces. This breaking down of the rocks is called weathering.

Water can cause some rocks and minerals to dissolve. When this happens underground, huge caverns can form. Water rushing through these underground caves pushes the smaller bits of rock and sand away and smooths down rough edges of larger rocks. Strong winds can also break down large rocks into smaller pieces and smooth out rough parts of large rocks. The wind can carry away very small pieces of rocks and dirt to other places. Ice can cause rocks to break as well. When water seeps into small cracks of rocks and freezes, the ice expands and breaks the rock. Plants can also break some rocks as their roots grow underground. The roots spread inside cracks and cause the rocks to break apart.

When water and wind carry small pieces of rock, sand, and dirt from one place to another it is called erosion. Erosion carries materials that have been weathered away from a place. These materials are then dropped and left in a new place in the final part of the cycle. The cycle that began with weathering and continued with erosion is now concluded with deposition. Deposition is the leaving of the particles in a new place.

The cycle of weathering, erosion, and deposition destroys old natural structures and creates new ones. Some of the most common landforms created by moving water are canyons. As rivers flow, they weather and erode the surface of the Earth around them. The rivers literally carve deeper and deeper into the Earth's surface. After many years, the rivers have cut deeply into the surface of the Earth. The high walls on either side of a river along with the river itself are now known as a canyon.

In many cold parts of the world there are very large sheets of ice on the Earth's surface. These huge chunks of ice are called glaciers. As glaciers move, the ice scrapes away pebbles, rocks, and even large boulders. As glaciers drag the pieces of rock along, holes are formed in the land. If a glacier melts, some of the rock and dirt is left behind. Some glaciers leave behind open holes in the surface of the Earth that are large enough to be considered valleys. As glaciers melt, these valleys can fill with water to form lakes.



Ex. 1. Find words in the text which have these meanings:

a) the part where an object or area begins or ends; the border, or margin of a surface (*n.*)

b) a line on the surface of something along which it has split without breaking apart (*n.*)

c) the part of a plant that grows underground, gets water from the ground, and holds the plant in place (*n.*)

d) to remove something by rubbing something rough or sharp against it (v.)

e) to flow slowly through porous material or small holes (v.)

f) having no natural protection against bad weather (adj.)

g) to become mixed with the liquid (v.)

h) a series of events that happen repeatedly in the same order (n.)

i) to pull something along forcefully, take from a place (v.)



Ex.2. Match the words and definitions.

erode

the damage of rocks, soils and minerals through contact with water, atmospheric gases, and biological organisms

deposition

a thick, solid piece that has been cut or broken off something

smooth (down)

a very large stone or rounded piece of rock

weathering

to make or cause something to lie and remain flat

pebble

to cut a pattern on the surface of something

chunk

to gradually destroy the surface of something through the action of wind, rain, etc.

carve

a small round stone, especially one found on a beach or in a river

boulder

the natural process of leaving a layer of a substance on rocks or soil

