Geography

Read this page or listen:

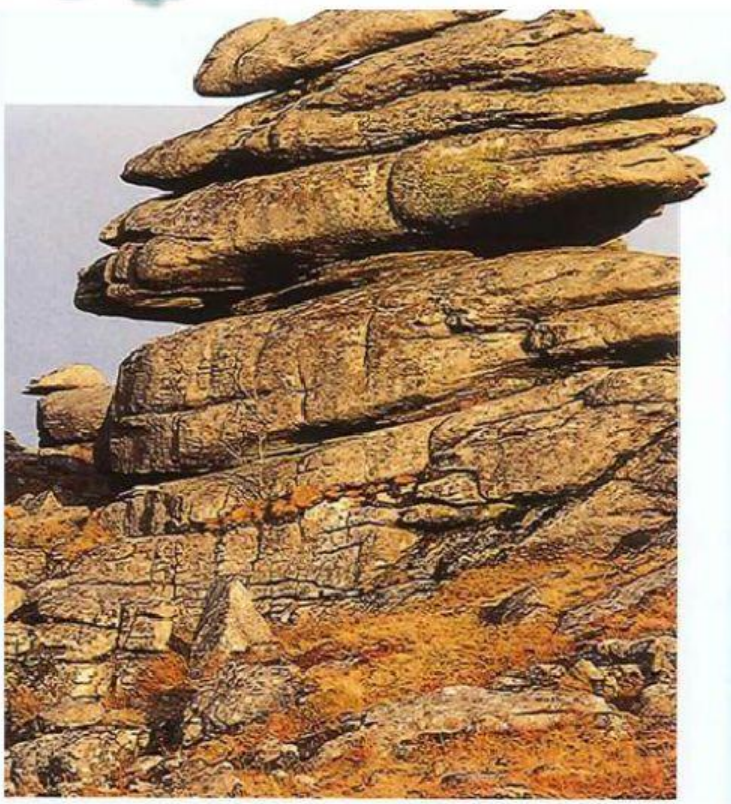
Changing landscape

If you could speed up time, you'd see the rocks on Earth's surface crumbling and washing away, as though they were made of sand. The processes that destroy and carry away rock are called weathering and erosion. When rocks weather, they crumble, rot, and dissolve. The debris is then washed or blown away in the process of erosion. Weathering and erosion usually happen slowly, but they are constantly at work, changing the landscape. You can see evidence of them everywhere.

What is weathering and erosion?

Read this page or listen:

Weathered tor ▸
The granite "tors" of southern England are slowly being eaten away by weathering. Rain, which is slightly acidic, attacks certain minerals, such as the feldspar in granite. The feldspar turns into clay and washes away. The grains of quartz that are left behind crumble into sand. Dramatic swings in temperature can also weaken rocks, and water can split them when it seeps into crevices and freezes.



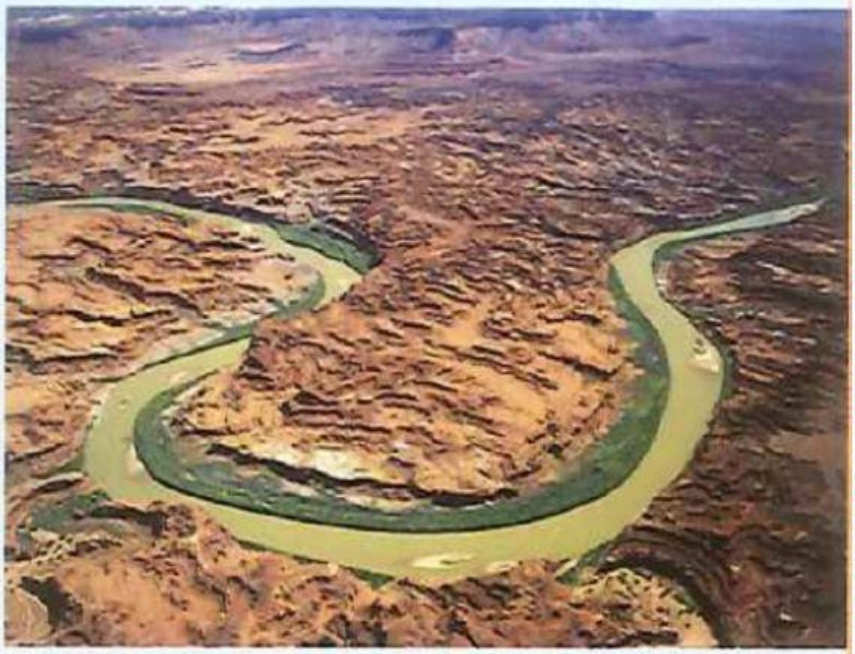
Describe weathering in your own words:

Read this page or listen:

Types of erosion

Water, wind, and ice all contribute to the process of erosion, shifting billions of tonnes of rock debris every year and carrying it relentlessly downhill. Much of the debris ends up dumped in floodplains, deltas, or the sea.

River ▶
Rock debris, in the form of sand, silt, and clay, is transported long distances by rivers. The gritty water also eats away at the surroundings, creating valleys.



Sea ▶
Pounding waves erode the coast, undercutting cliffs and making them collapse. As the coast retreats, crumbling arches and towers of rock are left behind.

Read this page or listen:

Wind ▶
The wind erodes the land in deserts. It picks up fine dust and carries it far away. Sand is blasted against rocks, sculpting them into weird and wonderful shapes.

Earth ▶
Landslides happen when unstable heaps of eroded rubble and earth suddenly collapse. They are often triggered by earthquakes or torrential rain.

Ice ▶
Glaciers pick up rock rubble as they slide slowly forwards. The rubble scrapes the land, carving out valleys.

Draw all 5 different types of Erosion and label each picture.

Submit your drawing on Edmodo

Click here when you are done