Weathering & Erosion

Weathering is the changing of rocks near the earth's surface through the actions of natural elements such as **wind**, **rain**, **heat**, **wave action**, **ice** and **snow**.

The Earth's surface is constantly changing and breaking down due to the process of weathering and the effects of **erosion**.

Weathering

The BREAKING DOWN of rock. Weathering agents include:

Water *Ice*
Wind *Animals*
Growing Plants

Erosion

The MOVEMENT of sediment from broken rock. Erosion agents include:

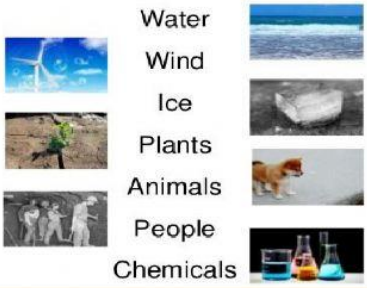
Water *Ice*
Wind *Gravity*

Deposition

The DROPPING of sediment in a NEW place. Examples of deposition are:

Formation of an island
Sand dunes

Agents of weathering

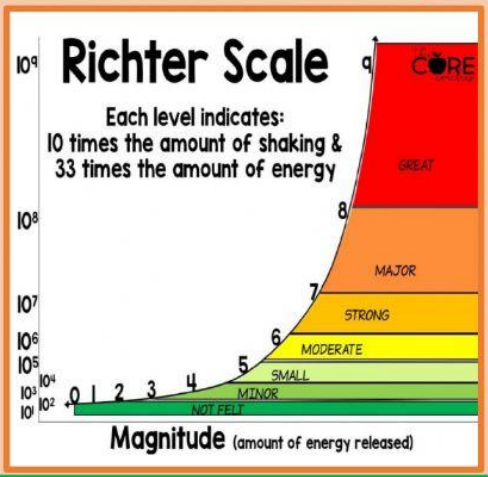


Weathering occurs because of the changes in temperature and exposure to water and air.

Once rock is weathered and eroded, water, wind, ice and gravity deposit weathered material from the rocks to other places. This process is known as **deposition.**

Earthquakes cause rapid changes on earth. An **earthquake** is a **vibration** or shaking of Earth's crust. Most earthquakes occur along faults. A **fault** is a break in the crust along which rock moves.

Rock on either side of a fault can move up and down, side to side, or both. Earthquakes are measured on a **Richter Scale** which uses numbers from 1-9.



A **volcano** is a mountain that forms when red hot melted rock flows through a crack onto the earth's surface. Melted rock inside Earth is called **magma.** Melted rock that reaches Earth's surface is called **lava**. The lava and gases that erupt from volcanoes are very hot and often destroy everything in their path. Volcanic eruptions also form new crust on continents.

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