

Constructive vs. Destructive Geological Forces Introduction

Geological forces shape the Earth in two major ways: constructive and destructive processes.

- **Constructive forces** build up Earth's surface. These processes create new landforms and add material to the Earth's crust. Examples include volcanic eruptions forming islands, sediment deposition creating deltas, and mountain formation due to tectonic uplift.
- **Destructive forces** break down or remove Earth's surface materials. These processes include erosion, weathering, earthquakes, and landslides that wear away landforms and reshape the terrain.

Activity: Classifying Geological Processes

Geological Process	Constructive (Type C) or Destructive (Type D)
Volcanic eruption forming an island	_____
Earthquake causing land to crack	_____
Deposition of sediment in a river delta	_____
Landslide washing away a hillside	_____
Glacier carving out a valley	_____
Mountain formation due to tectonic uplift	_____
Weathering breaks down rocks	_____
Sand dune formation from wind-blown sand	_____
River erosion cutting into rock	_____
Coral reefs building up over time	_____

Reflection Questions

1. Explain how a volcanic eruption can be both a constructive and destructive force.

2. How does erosion differ from weathering?

3. Why is it important to understand both constructive and destructive forces when studying Earth's geology?
