

# Vocabulary



**chemical weathering** water and chemicals dissolving rock

Water dissolves many minerals. Any acids in the water dissolve the minerals so water can carry them away. Some acids are found in nature. Others form when pollutants mix with rain.

**physical weathering** rocks being broken down by other rocks as they bang and rub against each other in water or wind

Moving water in rivers and oceans carries pieces of rock. When these pieces rub against each other, they wear down. Plant roots grow in cracks, pushing rock apart. Rainwater in cracks freezes, and the ice breaks rocks.

**sediment** tiny particles of soil, sand, gravel, and silt created by weathering

Weathering breaks rocks into small pieces. The pieces are called sediment. Sediments are many sizes, from tiny sand grains to boulders.

**weathering** natural forces breaking rock into smaller pieces

Rocks are broken by moving water, and by wind, ice, and plants. This process is called weathering. Weathering makes sand, gravel, silt and parts of the soil.