

Vocabulary



deposition the laying down of sediment by water, melting ice, or wind

Moving water carries sediment. When the water slows down, it does not have enough energy to carry the sediment any longer. Then the tiny bits of gravel, sand, and soil sink down and settle in layers.

erosion the natural removal of sediment from the landscape

Erosion is caused mainly by water. Moving water picks up tiny fragments of rock and soil and carries them away. Wind and glaciers can also cause erosion of sediments. Erosion shapes Earth's surface. But erosion can be a serious problem when it removes soil.

weathering natural forces breaking rock into smaller pieces

Weathering makes sand, gravel, silt, and other sediments. Erosion removes the sediments that weathering creates. Deposition places those sediments somewhere else. Weathering, erosion, and deposition happen all together.