# EARTH SCIENCE UNIT 5 -KEY WEATHERING, EROSION, DEPOSITION



# YOUR PLANET YOUR INHERITANCE YOUR LEGACY

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#### **UNIT 5 WEATHERING, EROSION, & DEPOSITION**

#### I. <u>Weathering is</u>: <u>THE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL BREAKDOWN OF ROCK</u> <u>INTO SMALLER PARTICLES CALLED SEDIMENT</u>.

#### II. Types of Weathering:

A. <u>PHYSICAL</u> weathering = <u>ANY PROCESS THAT CAUSES A ROCK TO</u> <u>CRACK OR BREAK INTO PIECES WITHOUT CHANGING IT</u> <u>CHEMICALLY</u>. <u>ONLY THE SIZE AND SHAPE CHANGES!</u>

#### 1. TEMPERATURE CHANGE

Rocks are heated by the sun. As the outside of the rock heats up, it begins to **EXPAND**.

When temperatures fall, the outside of the rock cools and <u>CONTRACTS</u>.

This cycle of heating and cooling causes the surface of the rock to break off in slabs or layers. This process is known as <u>EXFOLIATION</u>.







#### 2. <u>FROST ACTION</u> – also called <u>FROST WEDGING</u> <u>HYDROFRACTURING</u>

This occurs when water seeps into the cracks in a rock. When the water freezes (ice), it **EXPANDS**.

The cycle of freezing and melting causes rocks to break apart.

This same process happens to our roads and produces what we call **<u>POTHOLES</u>** in the road.



#### 3. ORGANIC ACTIVITY

Trees and shrubs can grow through cracks in rocks. Their roots wedge into the crevices, prying the rock apart. Even moss and lichen wedge their hair-like roots between the grains that make up rock.



#### 4. ABRASION

This process occurs when sediments carried by a stream, and wind-blown sand causes particles to collide into each other and the surrounding rock, "sanding" them smooth.



#### B. <u>CHEMICAL</u> weathering = <u>ANY PROCESS THAT CAUSES ROCKS TO</u> <u>BREAKDOWN BY CHEMICAL ACTION AND RESULTS IN A CHANGE</u> <u>IN THE MINERAL/ CHEMICAL COMPOSITION</u>.

1. <u>CARBONATION</u> – Occurs when <u>carbon dioxide</u> in the atmosphere dissolves in the droplets of water that make up clouds. This forms a weak carbonic acid. Carbonic acid reacts with certain rocks and minerals that include: <u>CALCITE</u>, <u>LIMESTONE</u>, <u>MARBLE</u>, AND <u>CHALK</u>



LIMESTONE BEDROCK



Carbonic acid rain water seeps into the limestone bedrock through cracks. The water dissolves the limestone rock.



A cavern forms, Other features may include: <u>1. SINKHOLES</u> <u>2. COLUMNS</u> <u>3. STALACTITES</u> <u>4. STALAGMITES</u> 2. **<u>HYDRATION</u>**= occurs when water dissolves certain minerals in a rock. For example, granite is very stable in cool, dry climates, but in moist climates, rainfall dissolves much of the mineral feldspar. The feldspar becomes clay, which is too weak to keep the rock from falling apart. The mineral quartz remains behind as sand.

3. <u>PLANT ACIDS</u>= Plants produce weak acids that can dissolve certain minerals in a rock, weakening the rock.

4. **OXIDATION**= occurs when oxygen in the atmosphere combines with certain minerals in a rock. For example, when oxygen combines with iron minerals, iron oxide (rust) forms. The chemical change of the minerals weakens the rock and the rock crumbles.



H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> – SULFURIC ACID HNO<sub>3</sub> – NITRIC ACID









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#### III. Rates of Weathering.

A. **<u>CLIMATE</u>** is the major factor that affects the rate of weathering.



#### 1. TEMPERATURE:

a. In warm climates **CHEMICAL ACTION** is the dominant type of weathering.

b. In cold climates **FROST ACTION** is the dominant type of weathering.

#### 2. PRECIPITATION:

- a. As precipitation increases, the amount (or rate) of weathering by frost action **INCREASES**.
- b. As precipitation increases, the amount (or rate) of chemical weathering **INCREASES**.
- 3. Chemical weathering is most rapid in **WARM** and **MOIST** climates
- 4. Due to climate and different weathering processes, landscapes develop differently.





#### **ARID** CLIMATE

HUMID CLIMATE

B. **DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROCKS** cause differential weathering. Differential weathering is the process by which softer, less weatherresistant rocks wear away, leaving harder, more weather-resistant rocks behind.





Which type of rock is MOST resistant to weathering? **LIMESTONE** Which type of rock is LEAST resistant to weathering? **SHALE** 

C. **<u>PARTICLE SIZE</u>** – Weathering takes place on the outside surface of rocks. So the more **<u>SURFACE AREA</u>** that is exposed to weathering, the faster the rock will be broken down. Note: the diagram shows the same type and mass of rock.



As rock breaks into smaller pieces, the **<u>SURFACE AREA</u>** increases. As surface area increases, the rate of weathering **<u>INCREASES</u>**.

#### **IV. Products of weathering**

#### A. <u>SOLID SEDIMENTS</u>

NAME OF SEDIMENT	SIZE (cm)
Boulders	
Cobbles	
Pebbles	
Sand	
Silt	
Clay	
Colloids	Less than .00001

**COLLOIDS** are very small solid particles (sediment) that are too small to be seen with an ordinary microscope and too light to settle in water. Even in calm water, they remain suspended within the water

UNIT 5 - Weathering, Erosion, & Deposition

B. **<u>DISSOLVED MINERALS</u>** – dissolved minerals cause the "hardness" in ground water (and surface water)

C. SOIL

- 1. Soil is a combination of <u>WEATHERED ROCK</u> and <u>ORGANIC</u> <u>MATTER</u>.
- 2. <u>**HUMUS</u>** = decayed plant and animal material found in soil. Soil that contains 20-3-% humus is considered rich for plant growth.</u>
- 3. Soil Development



4. Soil Layers – The Soil Profile



#### 5. Residual vs. Transported

If the bedrock matches the rock fragments of the C Horizon, the soil is most likely **<u>RESIDUAL</u>**. If it does not, the soil has most likely been **<u>TRANSPORTED</u>** from somewhere else.

#### V. EROSION AND DEPOSITION

#### A. Erosion is <u>THE PROCESS BY WHICH WEATHERED SEDIMENTS ARE</u> <u>CARRIED / TRANSPORTED</u>

1. An agent of erosion is a material or force that moves sediments from one place to another place.

2. Agents of erosion include: <u>RUNNING WATER</u>, <u>WIND</u>, <u>GLACIERS</u>, <u>WAVES</u>, AND <u>GRAVITY</u>.

#### B. Deposition <u>IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH SEDIMENT IS DROPPED OR</u> <u>SETTLES</u>.

- Deposition occurs when then the velocity (speed) of running water or the wind <u>DECREASES</u>, and/or when the discharge (volume of water) <u>DECREASES</u>.
- 2. Factors that affect the deposition of sediment:

a. Size: <u>AS THE SIZE OF THE SEDIMENT INCREASES, THE</u> <u>RATE (SPEED) OF DEPOSITION INCREASES</u>.



b. Density: <u>AS THE DENSITY OF THE SEDIMENT INCREASES,</u> <u>THE RATE (SPEED) OF DEPOSITION INCREASES</u>



# C. Shape: <u>AS THE SHAPE BECOMES MORE SPHERICAL</u> (ROUNDER) THE RATE (SPEED) OF DEPOSITION OF THE <u>SEDIMENT INCREASES</u>.



- C. Gravity erosion and deposition
  - 1. Gravity pulls sediments down slopes.
  - 2. The downhill movement of sediments by gravity is called MASS WASTING.
  - 3. Types of mass wasting include: LANDSLIDES & MUDSLIDES
  - 4. Deposition resulting from gravity:



**UNSORTED AND SHARPER / JAGGED** 

sediments

5. Gravity is the underlying force behind all erosion; it may act alone or with a transporting agent (agent of erosion):

- a. **<u>GRAVITY</u>** causes water to flow downhill
- b. **<u>GRAVITY</u>** causes glaciers to flow down a valley or spread outward.
- c. <u>GRAVITY</u> causes winds by pulling heavier (more dense) cold air down beneath lighter (less dense) warm air
- D. Wind Erosion & Deposition
  - 1. The amount of erosion caused by the wind depends on:
    - a. The **<u>SIZE</u>** of the sediments being carried
    - b. The **<u>SPEED</u>** at which the wind is blowing

c. The amount of **<u>TIME</u>** that the wind continues to blow.





Sediments



2.

#### E. Running Water – erosion 1. Running water is the **DOMINANT FORM OF EROSION**



- 3. When rain falls onto the surface of the earth, several things can happen to the water:
  - a. **<u>RUNOFF FLOW OVER THE LAND BACK INTO THE SEA</u>**
  - b. INFILTRATE- (SINK) INTO THE GROUND
  - c. <u>EVAPORATE CHANGE FROM LIQUID TO GAS AND RE</u> <u>ENTER THE ATMOSPHERE</u>
  - d. <u>STORED IN PONDS, LAKES, AND ACCUMULATED SNOW</u>
- 4. The volume (amount) of water in a stream is classes the stream's **DISCHARGE**. Factors affecting a stream's volume are:
  - a. Season spring vs. fall; usually greater in the **<u>SPRING</u>**
  - b. Climate Arid vs. Humid; usually greater in HUMID CLIMATES
  - c. Weather Daily changes in precipitation affect the volume of a stream.

- d. Ground / Soil Saturated or unsaturated; greater when the soil is **SATURATED**
- e. Drainage Basin <u>(WATERSHED) THE AREA OF LAND</u> DRAINED BY A RIVER SYSTEM – THE MAIN RIVER AND ALL ITS TRIBUTARIES.

**Tributary – <u>A SMALLER STREAM THAT FLOWS INTO A</u> <u>LARGER ONE</u>.** 



# KEY

A- ONTARIO – ST. LAWRENCE

B- SUSQUEHANNA-CHESAPEAKE

C- MOHAWK - HUDSON

D- ST. LAWRENCE

E. CHAMPLAIN – ST. LAWRENCE

F. LONG ISLAND SOUND

G. DELAWARE

H. ALLEGHANY - OHIO

I. ERIE – ST. LAWRENCE



- 6. Factors that affect stream velocity: a. <u>GRADIENT – AS GRADIENT INCREASES, STREAM</u> <u>VELOCITY INCREASES</u>
  - b. <u>VOLUME AS STREAM VOLUME INCREASES, STREAM</u> <u>VELOCITY INCREASES</u>
  - C. **Channel** = the path that a stream follows. When a stream flows through its channel, its speed will change due to the curvature of the channel.



The bends in a stream's channel are called **MEANDERS** 

#### Arial / Map View of a Stream Channel



At the outside of a curve, the stream velocity **<u>INCREASES</u>**. Therefore, **<u>EROSION</u>** occurs.

At the inside of the curve, the stream velocity **<u>DECREASES</u>**. Therefore, **<u>DEPOSITION</u>** occurs,

#### 7. Stream Load



- a. SOLUTION Minerals dissolved in water
- b. **<u>SUSPENSION</u>** Small particles carried within the water
- c. <u>SALTATION</u> larger particles rolling and bouncing along the bottom
- 8. Particle Size vs. Stream Velocity



This generalized graph shows the water velocity needed to maintain, but not start, movement. Variations occur due to differences in particle density and shape.

What is the largest size sediment that can be transported by a stream in which the water velocity is:

a. 5 cm/sec: SAND (maybe some small pebbles)

- b. 30 cm/sec: PEBBLES
- c. 200 cm/sec: COBBLES

- F. Running Water Deposition
  - 1. When a stream enters a body of water, its speed will <u>**DECREASE**</u>, and therefore, the <u>**DEPOSITION**</u> of sediments occurs.

A deposit at the mouth of a stream where it enters a large body of water is called a **<u>DELTA</u>** 



2. A delta is an example of the **<u>HORIZONTAL</u>** deposition of sediments in water.



4. Stream deposition on land can occur. This deposit is called a(n) <u>ALLUVIAL FAN</u>.



5. Equilibrium: Erosion = Deposition





6. Formation of an Oxbow Lake - the work of erosion and deposition

7. Stream Landscape Features:





G. Glaciers – erosion and deposition

- 1. A glacier is **A LARGE MASS OF MOVING ICE AND SNOW**
- 2. Types of Glaciers:
  - a. <u>VALLEY / ALPINE</u> glaciers form in mountain valleys at high elevations.

Example locations:

<u>ALPS</u> <u>ROCKIES</u> <u>HIMALAYAS</u> <u>ANDES</u>



b. **<u>CONTINENTAL</u>** Glaciers form over vast areas of land.

Example locations:

**GREENLAND** 



**ANTARCTICA** 



#### 3. Valley Glaciers and Erosion a. Movement of a valley glacier -



# B. Moraine – UNSORTED ROCK MATERIAL CARRIED AND DEPOSITED BY A GLACIER.

1. **LATERAL** moraine – unsorted rock on the glacier along the valley walls.

2. **MEDIAL** Moraine – unsorted rock on the glacier in the central region resulting from the merging of two smaller valley glaciers.

3. **<u>GROUND</u>** moraine – unsorted rock trapped at the bottom of the glacier.

4. **<u>TERMINAL / END</u>** Moraine – unsorted rock trapped at the leading edge or "end" of the glacier.



4. Ice Age Continental Glaciers

In the geologic past, a much colder climate resulted in ice sheets covering much of Earth's surface.



There is evidence of at least  $\_4$  major ice ages during the last 2 million years.

a. The time period between ice ages is called

**INTERGLACIEL PERIODS** 

b. The most recent ice age ended only about <u>11,000</u> years ago.



- 1. <u>KAME</u> A cone-shaped hill made of sediment carried to the edge of a glacier by meltwater.
- 2. DRUMLIN An oval-shaped hill of glacial moraine
- 3. **<u>ERRATIC</u>** A large boulder deposited by ice
- 4. **<u>KETTLE LAKE</u>** A lake formed when a block of glacial ice melts.
- 5. **<u>BRAIDED STREAM</u>** A stream that is divided into an interlocking system of channels
- 6. <u>OUTWASH PLAIN</u> Layers of sediment deposited by the meltwaters of glacial ice.
- TERMINAL MORAINE A mass of loose rock carried by a glacier and finally deposited in the form of a belt or ridge. It marks the farthest position reached by a glacier.
- 8. **<u>GROUND MORAINE</u>** Glacial material deposited as the glacier retreats.
- 9. **ESKER** A ridge-like hill of deposits resulting from a stream flowing in a tunnel under the glacier.



b. Profile of Niagara Falls

Horseshoe Falls







#### **UNIT 5 EXAM TOPICS**

#### Weathering

- 3 ex. of physical
- 4 ex. of chemical
- resistance to weathering

#### Soil

- how it is made
- what it is made of

#### Waves

- beaches
- erosion
- deposition

### Gravity

- mass movements
- erosion
- deposition

## Wind

- erosion
- deposition

#### Landscapes

- plateau
- mountain
- plain
- how to identify
- climatic effects
- ESRT p. 2&3

#### **Running Water**

- slope
- -discharge
- -velocity
- -erosion
- deposition
- meanders
- abrasion
- cross section
- V-shaped valley
- flood plain
- watershed
- drainage pattern
- horizontal sorting
- vertical sorting
- ESRT p.6

### Glaciers

- Kettle lakes
- Finger lakes
- Striations
- Erosion
- Deposition
- Drumlin
- Moraine
- Outwash plain
- U-shaped valley

### **UNIT 5 VOCABULARY**

	Mountain
Abrasion	Outwash Plain
Barrier Island	Physical Weathering
Chemical Weathering	Plain
Delta	Plateau
Deposition	Sand Dune
Drumlin	Sandbar
Erosion	Sandblasting
Escarpment	Sediment
Finger lake	Sorted Sediment
Flood plain	Stream
Glacial Parallel Scratches	Stream Abrasion
Glacier	Stream Drainage Patter
Kettle Lake	Tributary
Landscape	Inducary
Landscape Region	Uncorted Sodimont
Mass Movement	Unlifting Forgos
Meander	Upinting Forces
Moraine	V-shaped Valley
Moralle	Watershed
	Weathering

#### **UNIT 5 SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

1. Base your answer to the following question on the graph below, which shows the effect that average yearly precipitation and temperature have on the type of weathering that will occur in a particular region.



Which type of weathering is most common where the average yearly temperature is 5°C and the average yearly precipitation is 45 cm?

A) moderate chemical weathering

- B) very slight weathering
- C) moderate chemical weathering with frost action
- D) slight frost action

2. Which agent of erosion is most likely responsible for the deposition of sandbars along ocean shorelines?	4. Which rock weathers most rapidly when exposed to acid rain?
A) glaciersB) mass movementC) wave actionD) wind action	A) quartziteB) graniteC) basaltD) limestone
3. By which processes are rocks broken up and moved to different locations?	<ol> <li>Sediments found in glacial moraines are best described as</li> </ol>
A) evaporation and condensation	A) sorted and layered
B) weathering and erosion	B) sorted and not layered
C) burial and cementation	C) unsorted and layered
D) compaction and transportation	D) unsorted and not layered

6. The cross section below shows the movement of wind-driven sand particles that strike a partly exposed basalt cobble located at the surface of a windy desert.



Which cross section best represents the appearance of this cobble after many years of exposure to the wind-driven sand?



7. The diagram below shows the stump of a tree whose root grew into a small crack in bedrock and split the rock apart.



The action of the root splitting the bedrock is an example of

- A) chemical weathering
- B) deposition
- C) erosion
- D) physical weathering

- 8. On the Earth's surface, transported materials are more common than residual materials. This condition is mainly the result of
  - A) subduction

C) folding

D) recrystallization

**B)** erosion

- 9. What occurs when a rock is crushed into a pile of fragments?
  - A) The total surface area decreases and chemical composition changes.
  - B) The total surface area decreases and chemical composition remains the same.
  - C) The total surface area increases and chemical composition changes.
  - D) The total surface area increases and chemical composition remains the same.



10The block diagram below shows a cross section of a landscape. Letters A, B, C, D, and E represent different rock layers.

Which rock layers appear to be most resistant to weathering?

A) A and B B) B and D C) C, D, and E D) A, C, and E

11. The cross section below shows soil layer *X*, which was formed from underlying bedrock.



Which change would most likely cause soil layer to increase in thickness?

- A) a decrease in slope
- B) a decrease in rainfall
- C) an increase in biologic activity
- D) an increase in air pressure

- 12. Sandstone, limestone, and conglomerate cobbles are found in a streambed in New York State where the surrounding bedrock is composed of shales and siltstones. The most likely explanation for the presence of these cobbles is that they were
  - A) weathered from the surrounding bedrock
  - B) formed when shale and siltstone bedrock were eroded
  - C) transported to this area from another region
  - D) metamorphosed from shale and siltstone
- 13. Pieces of bedrock material that are broken from a cliff and deposited by a landslide at the base of the cliff are best described as
  - A) rounded and sorted
  - B) rounded and unsorted
  - C) angular and sorted
  - D) angular and unsorted
- 14. What change will a pebble usually undergo when it is transported a great distance by streams?
  - A) It will become jagged and its mass will decrease.
  - B) It will become jagged and its volume will increase.
  - C) It will become rounded and its mass will increase.
  - D) It will become rounded and its volume will decrease.

15. Base your answer to the following question on the block diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The block diagram represents a landscape that was produced by a meandering stream. One landscape feature is labeled *X*. Letters *A*, *B*, *C*, and *D* represent locations on the stream banks.



Erosion is most likely greatest at locations

A) A and B B)

B) B and C C) C and D

- D) D and A
- 16. Base your answer to the following question on the diagram which represents a profile of a mountain glacier in the northern United States.



The downhill movement of mountain glaciers such as the one shown in the diagram is primarily caused by

- A) evaporation of ice directly from the glacier
- B) snow blowing across the top of the glacier
- C) the force of gravity pulling on the glacier
- D) water flowing over the glacier

17. The diagram below shows sand particles being moved by wind.



At which Earth surface locations is this process usually the most dominant type of erosion?

- A) deserts and beaches
- B) deltas and floodplains
- C) glaciers and moraines
- D) mountain peaks and escarpments

18. Base your answer to the following question on the reading passage below and on your knowledge of Earth science.

#### **Roche Moutonée**

A roche moutonée is a glacial landscape feature produced as an advancing glacier slides over a hill of surface bedrock. As the glacier advances up the side of the hill, the surface bedrock is abraded and smoothed by rock fragments carried within the base of the glacial ice, creating a more gentle hillslope. As the glacier advances down the opposite side of the hill, chunks of bedrock are broken off and removed by the ice, a process called glacial quarrying (plucking), making this side of the hill steeper. The resulting hill resembles a drumlin, except it is often smaller and is composed of solid rock.

The chunks of bedrock removed by glacial quarrying and transported by the glaciers most likely produce

- A) terminal outwash plains
- B) kettle lake depressions

C) V-shaped valleys

- D) parallel scratches in surface bedrock
- 19. The map below shows the large delta that formed as the Mississippi River emptied into the Gulf of Mexico.



Which process was primarily responsible for the formation of the delta?

- A) glacial erosion
- B) cementation of sediment
- C) deposition of sediment
- D) mass movement

20. Which profile best shows the general depositional pattern that occurs when water from a stream enters the ocean?



#### Answer Key Unit 5

1. D 2. С 3. B 4. D 5. D 6. 7. D 8. B 9. D 10. D 11. <u>C</u> C 12. D 13. 14. D D 15. 16. <u>C</u> 17. Α 18. D 19. С D 20.