SCIENCE · LANDFORMS AND EROSION · GRADES 3–5

Weathering or Erosion?

Sort ten changes into weathering (breaking rock) and erosion (moving it), then explain the difference.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Weathering breaks rock into smaller pieces. **Erosion** carries the pieces away to a new place. Water, wind, ice and plants can do both.

Write each change in the right column.

- wind piles sand into dunes
- a river carries sand downstream
- waves wash beach sand away
- tree roots crack a sidewalk
- rain slowly wears away a stone statue
- blowing sand scratches a rock
- a rock cracks from hot days and cold nights
- a glacier drags rocks down a valley
- a landslide moves dirt down a hill
- water freezes in a crack and splits a rock

Weathering (breaking)	Erosion (moving)

In your own words, how are weathering and erosion different?

_____

_____

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