

Erosion

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Erosion is when pieces of land, soil or rock are moved from one place to another or when large pieces of rock or land are worn into smaller pieces. There are two types of erosion: slow erosion and quick erosion.

Quick erosion happens in a short amount of time and changes Earth's surface. Some things that cause quick erosion are landslides and earthquakes. A landslide occurs when the side of a mountain or cliff collapses. This can be caused by heavy rain or human activities. Earthquakes are a violent shaking of the Earth's crust when the plates of the Earth's crust push into each other. Both landslides and earthquakes move large quantities of rock and dirt. A smaller example of quick erosion is when rain on a hill carries plants and soil from the top of the hill to the bottom.

Slow erosion even affects formations as large as mountains. Do you know that the Appalachian Mountains are not as tall as they used to be? Mountains lose their height as a result of **weathering**. Weathering occurs over time when wind and water beat against Earth's surface. Weathering not only moves small pebbles and dirt, it also wears formations such as mountains down by breaking up the rock that they are made of. Over thousands of years, weathering will break huge rocks, like mountains, down into small pieces that are carried away by wind and water. Eventually, mountains become noticeably smaller.