

Name: _____

Weathering

Erosion is the process of land breaking down by rocks moving or being moved. Weathering is a type of erosion which occurs without rocks actually moving. There are different types of weathering.

Directions: Match each type of weathering to its definition.

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| mechanical weathering: freeze-thaw | Weathering that occurs when flowing water collects salts and ions and enters rock. Salt crystals left after the water dries up grow and act like a wedge within the rock, breaking it apart. |
| mechanical weathering: salt-wedge | Weathering that occurs when iron in rock gets exposed to oxygen. This process softens the rock, making it more susceptible to breaking. |
| chemical weathering: oxidation | Weathering that occurs when an organism, such as trilobite shells, bore into rocks for protection by scraping or secreting acid to dissolve the rock. |
| chemical weathering: hydrolysis | Weathering that occurs when water inside rocks freezes and expands causing cracks in the rocks which eventually break the rock apart. |
| biological weathering: animals | Weathering that occurs when acid rain reacts with rock-forming minerals to produce clay and salts, which are then easily washed away. |
| biological weathering: plants | Weathering that occurs when an organism, such as lichen (a combination of fungi and algae) , grow upon the surface of rock slowly "eating" it away. |