

Landforms are natural land shapes, such as mountains, hills, valleys, plains, canyons, and deltas. Some landforms are caused by extreme events like earthquakes, while others are formed over many years by weathering and erosion.



Key vocabulary

sediment

Rocks, sand, or dirt that has been carried to a place by water, wind, or a glacier.

topography

The gradual wearing away of a substance by water or wind, as in soil erosion.

erosion

The wearing away of land or soil by wind, water, or ice.

weathering

The breakdown of the materials in the Earth's crust into sediment. Erosion is the process of moving this sediment.

Related articles



Weathering & Erosion

Some of the world's most famous landmarks were created by weathering and erosion. Ever heard of the Grand Canyon? That is one of them.



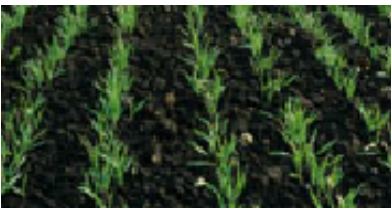
Volcanoes

What are the Earth's most fantastic, and sometimes most violent, geologic changes? Here is a hint: molten rock and ash shoot out of them!



Earthquakes

When the ground shakes, there is a hidden cause. There are plates in the Earth's crust moving around, and when they collide, it is called an earthquake!



Soil

You plant flowers in it. Farmers grow our food in it. It is a black and brown feast of minerals for plants. That is right. It is time to talk about soil!