

Weathering and Erosion

Weathering

Weathering is the process that changes solid rock into sediments. Rock disintegrates, or breaks into pieces.

- Once these sediments are separated from the rocks, **erosion** is the process that moves the sediments
- Plate tectonics forces work to build huge mountains and other landscapes, but the forces of weathering gradually wear those rocks and landscapes away
 - Together with erosion, tall mountains turn into hills and plains
- Weathering takes time (thousands and millions of years)

Study Tip

Remember your “W”s! Water and Wind can cause **Weathering**.



A once smooth road surface has cracks and fractures, plus a large pothole.

Concept Check

- What is weathering?
- How is weathering different from erosion?
- Why does weathering take so much time?