



WATER AND ROCKS

Weathering and Erosion

Weathering is the natural process of breaking down rocks. It can happen through freezing and thawing (as shown in the experiment), plant growth, chemicals found in water (for certain types of rocks), and chemicals released by lichen that break down rocks for their nutrients.



Once the pieces of rock are small enough, the force of gravity, wind, and moving water take over. As small rocks are carried over long distances, they get worn down into even smaller pieces. This process of wearing down rocks is called erosion.



Over time, these rocks get worn down into sand and eventually into much smaller pieces that make up soil.

