

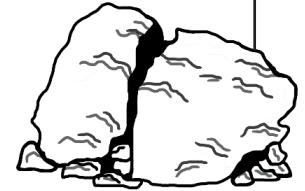
Rock Weathering

This activity was created by Katy

How does the natural world affect rocks? Weathering is a natural process where rocks are broken down into smaller pieces. Weathering can be physical, chemical, or biological, depending on the cause of the change.

DEFINITIONS

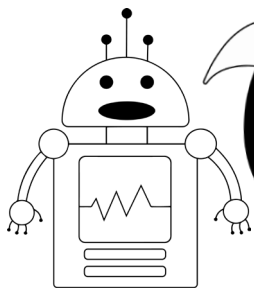
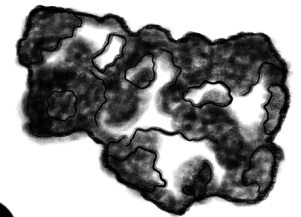
PHYSICAL WEATHERING is caused by changes in temperature and precipitation (including rain, snow, and wind). Rocks affected by physical weathering can be smooth and rounded by water or split into pieces by dramatic temperature changes. These rocks are most often found beside bodies of water or in places with big temperature changes.



CHEMICAL WEATHERING is caused by acids and salts. Rocks affected by chemical weathering often have grooves and holes in their surface. When acidic rainwater mixes with rock, parts of the rock can be dissolved, or washed away. Chemically weathered rocks are most likely to be found in damp and warm environments.



BIOLOGICAL WEATHERING is caused by plants, animals, and even human beings! Did you know that plants / mosses / lichens growing on rocks, and people and animals walking on rocks are examples of biological weathering? These changes are found in environments with lots of plants, animals, or human activity.



Loops in computer science are super important! Loops are instructions that are repeated over and over until a specific condition is met. Rock weathering works a lot like this: think of a rock in the ocean, with waves physically weathering it. **While** the rock remains in the water, this will keep happening. But if the rock is removed, the loop will end!

- 1 Your job is to explore your natural environment and find 4 rocks. These rocks will help you fill out the Weathering Investigation Chart below. The rocks can be from other environments too but remember where they came from.
- 2 Select your first rock. Write down the location where you found the rock.
- 3 Draw a picture and describe the appearance of the rock.
- 4 Identify the type of weathering you think the rock experienced. It could be physical, chemical, biological, or a combination of all three, as explained above.
- 5 Explain what you think caused the rock to weather, and why. It could be water, plants, animals, etc. Base your answer on the location you found the rock, as well as its appearance.

Date: _____

Name: _____

ROCK #1

Location found:	Drawing:
Appearance description:	
Type of weathering:	
Cause of weathering:	

ROCK #2

Location found:	Drawing:
Appearance description:	
Type of weathering:	
Cause of weathering:	

ROCK #3

Location found:	Drawing:
Appearance description:	
Type of weathering:	
Cause of weathering:	

ROCK #4

Location found:	Drawing:
Appearance description:	
Type of weathering:	
Cause of weathering:	