

In nature, big things can be broken apart to create smaller things. These smaller things can be broken apart even further to create tiny things. This process is called erosion and it can take thousands of years to happen. Erosion can be caused by wind, water, and ice. Tiny streams have become huge, winding rivers over time because of erosion. Huge boulders have been worn down into piles of sand because of erosion. Flat plains have become deep valleys because of, you guessed it, erosion.

Time to test your knowledge on erosion! Cut and paste the images in the correct order to show the process of erosion.

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Glaciers are huge chunks of ice found in nature. Glaciers can get very large. The Bering Glacier from Alaska is the longest glacier in America. It is 122 miles long. That's as long as 16,944 school busses. Amazingly, these huge blocks of ice are constantly on the move. If you watched a glacier you wouldn't be able to tell that it was moving because glaciers move very slowly. As a glacier moves across the Earth it will crush anything in its path, sometimes creating deep valleys and ravines.

Do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that glaciers move so slowly? Why?

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Some glaciers have been around for a long time. Pretend you're an old glacier. Write about the different things you have seen.

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Erosion is a part of nature. It has been happening for millions of years. Did you know that people can cause erosion? When people build houses they make the ground flat. That means they move tons of soil, rocks, and trees. You've learned that in nature, erosion takes thousands of years, but the erosion caused by humans takes place in just a few days.

How can humans stop unnatural erosion?

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How is the erosion that happens naturally different from the erosion caused by humans?

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Is the erosion caused by humans a bad thing? Explain.

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