

“WE DO”

Erosion by water

Temperature changes cause pieces of rock to flake away from the surface. Also, the [acid](#) in rainwater dissolves rocks containing [calcium carbonate](#). These processes are called [weathering](#).

Water erosion happens when water moves the pieces of rock or soil downhill. [Waves](#) also carry away small pieces of material. A wave can wash up onto the surface of rock or soil and then carry away pieces of material as it flows back into the [ocean](#) or [lake](#).

The size of earth materials that can be moved by water depends on how fast the water is moving. A fast-flowing stream can carry large rocks while a slow-moving stream might only be able to carry very small things like [clay](#). [Canyons](#) are among the most obvious features made by erosion. Where a river meets the sea, it drops the solids, sometimes making a [river delta](#).



Water moving downhill can carry away pieces of rock and soil.

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