

Science Notes

Layton Wen

Period 1

Contents

1 Erosion by Glaciers	2
1.1 Valley Glaciers	2
1.2 Source(s)	3

1 Erosion by Glaciers

Glaciers cause erosion in two main ways:

Definition 1 (Plucking)

Plucking is the process of rocks and sediments being picked up and frozen to the bottom of a glacier.

Definition 2 (Abrasion)

Abrasion is the process where glaciers use sediments and rocks stuck to the bottom of the glacier by plucking to scrape up rock. Sometimes, glaciers leave grooves which show the direction the glacier was moving, these are called **glacial striations**.

1.1 Valley Glaciers

Valley glaciers are glaciers which travel through valleys(duh).

In particular, when a glacier travels through a **V-shaped valley**, it scrapes the edges of the valley, effectively changing the V-shaped valley into a **U-shaped valley**. Two instances where this has occurred is shown below.



Hanging valleys can be carved out from other valleys, as seen in the below figure.



Cirques are hollow "mini-valleys" carved out by glaciers atop a mountain.



When cirques form on opposite sides of a mountain, they leave a jagged ridge called an **arête**.
Horns are formed atop mountains where all sides of the mountain have been eroded.



1.2 Source(s)

[CK-12](#)