Sorting Activity

Weathering, Erosion, or Deposition?

By Laura Candler

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Weathering, Erosion, or Deposition?

Group Size: Pairs or Teams

Materials:
- Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition definitions
- Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition cards
- Heading Cards and Answer Key

Directions
1. Review and discuss the meanings of weathering, erosion, and deposition. How are they alike and different?
2. Cut apart the three Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition heading cards with the arrows and the Answer Key. Turn the Answer Key face down and spread the heading cards out on a table in the middle of the team.
3. Cut apart the sixteen example cards. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in a pile.
4. One person flips over an example card and reads it aloud. He or she identifies the card as weathering, erosion, or deposition. If everyone agrees, the card is placed face up on the correct heading card, right under the arrow. If some team members don’t agree, review the meanings of these three terms and think about which term best describes the example on the card.
5. The next person flips over another example card and follows the directions in Step 3. Continue taking turns until all example cards are placed below a heading card.
6. Turn over the answer key and check your answers.
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Weathering

The breaking down or disintegration of substances such as rocks and minerals by physical, chemical, or biological processes.

Erosion

The movement of sediment or soil from one location to another by means of water, ice, or wind.

Deposition

When particles carried by water, ice, or wind are deposited (dropped) in another location.
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Weathering

Erosion

Deposition

Answer Key

Weathering
1, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14

Erosion
2, 4, 10, 13, 16

Deposition
3, 5, 6, 8, 15
## Weathering, Erosion, or Deposition?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Flood water pounding against a canyon wall and wearing it down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rain washing away soil from a hillside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Layers of sediment forming at the bottom of the ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A mudslide flowing down a steep hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Glaciers dropping rock and sand to form terminal moraines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Waves dropping sand on the beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Caves being formed by acid rain dissolving underground limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Deltas forming at the mouths of rivers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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9. Water getting into cracks, freezing, and breaking the rocks or pavement apart

10. Wind blowing sand from one location to another

11. Wind blasting sand at rock and carving out arches

12. Glaciers scraping rocks across the earth’s surface

13. Muddy water being carried away by a fast-moving river

14. Rocks being made smooth by tumbling across a streambed

15. Ponds filling up with sediment and becoming marshes

16. Flood waters moving soil from one location to another
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If you need more activities for this topic, check out Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition Task Cards with Google Quizzes below. To take a closer look at what’s inside, click over to my TpT store.

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24 Printable Task Cards & Task Card Images, a Teacher’s Guide, and 2 Google Quizzes

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