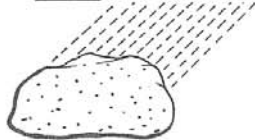


W.S.48. Rocks and weathering.

Name

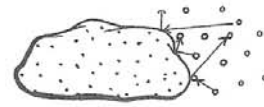
Rocks can be slowly broken up by the weather. This is called WEATHERING. The diagrams below show how this can happen.

Rain



Rainwater is slightly acidic. This makes certain rocks e.g. limestone slowly dissolve away.

Wind



Wind carries sand particles which blast against the surface of rocks and produce more sand.

Expansion and contraction.

Heat is absorbed.

DAY



Rock expands.

NIGHT

Heat is lost.



Rock contracts.

In a desert it is very hot during the day and very cold at night. Constant expansion and contraction of rocks causes them to break up.

Freezing of water.

Water fills a crack in the rock.



Ice forms which expands.



The rock is forced apart and the crack gets bigger.

Exercise - Complete the sentences below.

- 1) The slow wearing away of rocks is called _____
- 2) _____ can make limestone rocks slowly dissolve away.
- 3) In deserts rocks can be weathered by _____ carried in the wind.
- 4) Expansion and _____ can cause rocks to crumble.
- 5) When water freezes it _____ This can break rocks apart.