

Name _____

EROSION & DEPOSITION

Directions: Read the information below.

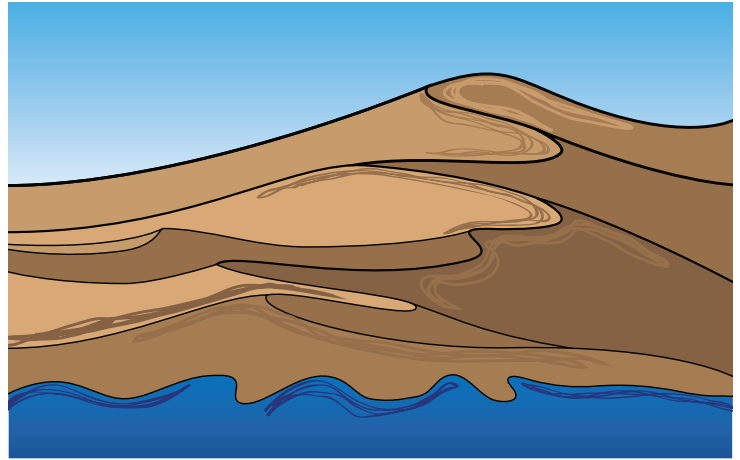
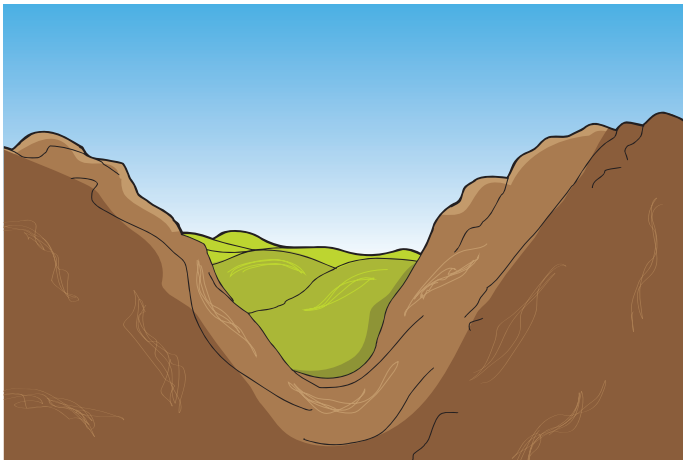
How Wind and Water Shape Our Land

You may have seen a picture of the Grand Canyon before. Did you know this landmark was formed by water and wind? Over time, water and wind are just two ingredients that contribute to erosion and deposition. Erosion is the process of wearing away something over time. Deposition is the opposite; it means building something up from the arrival of particles. In this case, some examples of the particles that get deposited over Earth's surface are sand and soil. Together, erosion and deposition will work over time to change the landscape of Earth.

Water can be a powerful force, cutting through Earth's surface with such strength that it wears away at the ground. Other than canyons, another example of this can be seen on coast lines. The shores of our coasts face constant erosion from waves that they encounter. Over a long period of time this can have an effect and wear away at the coast. Catastrophic events such as hurricanes can help speed this process along.

In desert areas, sand dunes are an example of deposition by the wind. As the wind blows, it carries the sand with it. Eventually the sand can no longer be carried through the wind. This is usually due to reaching an obstacle, like trees or rocks. Sand is deposited onto the ground. A few particles will not make a difference, but when this occurs on a large scale it creates a sand dune. If you have ever experienced a sand storm, or a dust storm, you know what wind erosion is.

Oftentimes in nature we will see water and wind working together. Not only will Earth's surface face threats from erosion by heavy rainfall and rivers, but wind also can help carry particles.



Directions: Answer the question below.

1. Explain the difference between erosion and deposition.
2. Use the space below to create an illustration of the path of sand in the erosion and deposition process. Use arrows to indicate the direction of movement.
3. Consider the sentences in the passage: Eventually the sand can no longer be carried through the wind. This is usually due to reaching an obstacle, like trees or rocks. If an area is experiencing sand storms and wishes to reduce the damage to their land, what might you recommend to them to help protect their land from wind erosion?