



Lesson Plan: How Does the Earth's Surface Change?

Grade Level: 3

Subject: Science

Duration: 45–60

NGSS 3-ESS3-1: Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Define** the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition.
- **Identify** natural forces that shape the Earth, including wind, water, ice, and gravity.
- **Describe** major landforms such as volcanoes, valleys, and glaciers.



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[the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-0.pdf](#)

- Worksheet: Changing Surface Practice

<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-how-does-the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-1.pdf>

- Vocabulary: Terms Matching Set 1

<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-how-does-the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-1.pdf>



- Vocabulary: Terms Matching Set 2
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-how-does-the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-2.pdf>)
- Vocabulary: Terms Matching Set 3
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-how-does-the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-3.pdf>)

Lesson Procedure

Step 1: Introduction (5 minutes)

- Ask students: 'Have you ever noticed cracks in a sidewalk or a smooth stone in a river? How do you think those changes happened?'
- Explain that the Earth's surface is always changing due to powerful natural forces like wind, water, and ice.



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Step 4: Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- Students complete the 'Worksheet: Changing Surface Practice' individually.
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-how-does-the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-1.pdf>)
- Students must identify landforms from images and explain why a city skyline is not a landform.

Step 5: Assessment (10 minutes)



- Administer 'Worksheet: Earth's Surface Quiz' as a final check for understanding.
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-how-does-the-earth-s-surface-change-2064-0.pdf>)
- Review questions 6 and 10 specifically to verify students understand the forces of erosion (wind, water, glaciers).

💡 Differentiation Strategies

For advanced learners:

- Research a specific famous landform (e.g., The Grand Canyon) and report on which forces of erosion created it.

For learners needing support:

- Use the illustrated 'Vocabulary: Terms Matching Set 3' to help visualize concepts like



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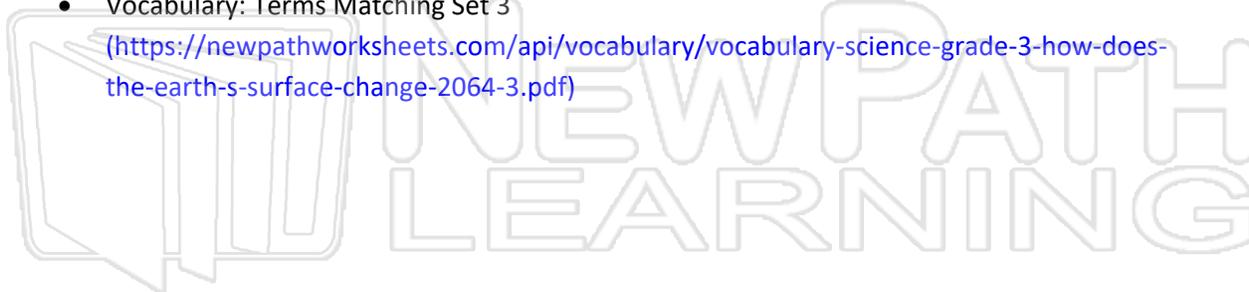
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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1 Many shapes on Earth's surface formed naturally. What is a recognizable shape on Earth's surface called?

A crust
B lava
C landform
D tsunami



2 Match the term with the correct definition:

crust **A.** process of soil, rock or sand being deposited or added to a landform by the forces of erosion

valley **B.** a low area of land between hills or mountains, which often has a river running through it

deposition **C.** the solid outermost layer of the Earth

force

3 When looking at Earth from space, why does most of the Earth appear blue? What landform is this blue color?

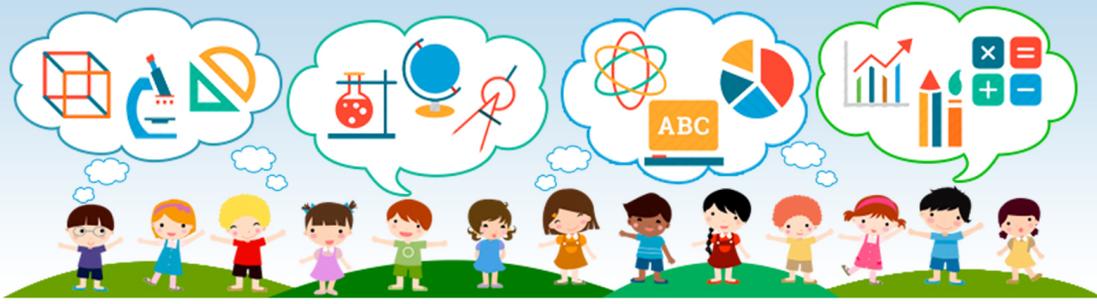


4 When the Earth shakes suddenly due to movements in the Earth's crust, it releases energy stored in rocks. What is this shaking called?

A a crumbling
B an earthquake



5



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9 Explain why the skyline of a city is not a landform.



10 The natural forces that cause erosion and deposition are:

A vibrating, condensing, and melting
B freezing, thawing, and evaporating
C wind, water, and glaciers
D pulling, pushing, and forcing





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1 Many shapes on Earth's surface formed naturally. What is a recognizable shape on Earth's surface called?

- A crust
- B lava
- C landform
- D tsunami



C

2 Match the term with the correct definition:

- crust
- valley
- deposition
- force

- A. process of soil, rock or sand being deposited or added to a landform by the forces of erosion
- B. a low area of land between hills or mountains, which often has a river running through it
- C. the solid outermost layer of the Earth

C

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C

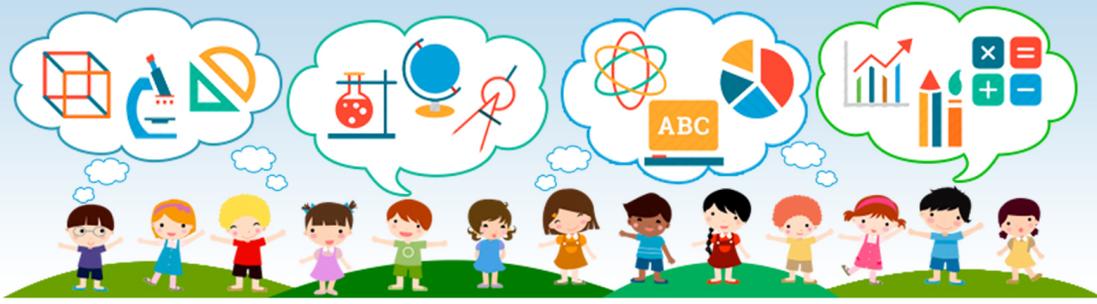
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A



B



D



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C

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- A vibrating, condensing, and melting
- B freezing, thawing, and evaporating
- C wind, water, and glaciers
- D pulling, pushing, and forcing



C



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1 Explain the process of weathering and its causes.



2 Which image shows a landform that is made by erosion caused by wind and waves?



3 Explain why the skyline of a city is not a landform.



4 The natural forces that cause erosion and deposition are:

- A vibrating, condensing, and melting
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D tsunami



force

Often has a river running through it
C. the solid outermost layer of the Earth

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When the Earth shakes suddenly due to movements in the Earth's crust, it releases energy stored in rocks. What is this shaking called?

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- B an earthquake
- C a vibration
- D a mudflow





How Does the Earth's Surface Change?

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C

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

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2 Which image shows a landform that is made by erosion caused by wind and waves?



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C

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D tsunami



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- A a crumbling
- B an earthquake
- C a vibration
- D a mudflow



B



How Does the Earth's Surface Change?

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Earthquake

Desert

Erosion

Crust

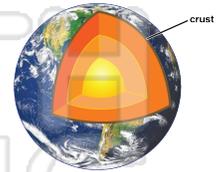
Deposition

Elevation

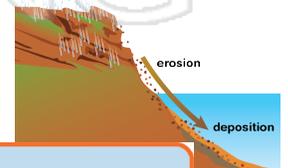
Landform

Glacier

1. **Crust** - the solid outermost layer of the Earth



2. **Deposition** - the process of soil, rock, or sand being deposited or added to a landform by the forces of erosion



3. **Desert**



4. **Earth movement**



5. **Elevation**

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6. **Erosion** by water



7. **Glacier** - a large, thick sheet of moving ice



8. **Landform** - part of Earth's surface that formed naturally and has a certain shape





How Does the Earth's Surface Change?

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Ocean

Glacier

Mountain

River

Plain

Sand dune

Lava

Landform

1. - a large, thick sheet of moving ice



2. - part of Earth's surface that formed naturally and has a certain shape



3. through



4. than t

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5. landm

6.

7. - a natural stream of water that flows into the ocean, lake, or another stream



8. - a ridge of sand created by the wind





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Ocean

Glacier

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River

Plain

Sand dune

Lava

Landform

1. **Glacier** - a large, thick sheet of moving ice



2. **Landform** - part of Earth's surface that formed naturally and has a certain shape



3. Lava
volcan



4. Mo
than t

5. Oce

6. Pla

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7. **River** - a natural stream of water that flows into the ocean, lake, or another stream



8. **Sand dune** - a ridge of sand created by the wind





How Does the Earth's Surface Change?

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Surface

Weathering

Sand dune

Valley

Volcano

Wind

Volcanic eruption

River

1. _____ - a natural stream of water that flows into the ocean, lake, or another stream



2. _____ - a ridge of sand created by the wind



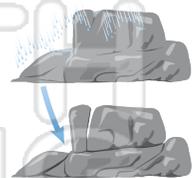
3. _____
4. which

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5. mater
6. openin

7. pieces - the process that breaks rock down into smaller



8. _____ - the natural movement of air outside





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Surface

Weathering

Sand dune

Valley

Volcano

Wind

Volcanic eruption

River

1. **River** - a natural stream of water that flows into the ocean, lake, or another stream



2. **Sand dune** - a ridge of sand created by the wind



3. **Surface**



4. **Valley**
river r



5. **Vol**
erupti

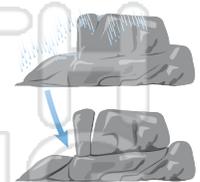
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6. **Vol**
openin



7. **Weathering** - the process that breaks rock down into smaller pieces



8. **Wind** - the natural movement of air outside

