

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Academic Vocabulary

Read the short story and answer each question.



## What Is Erosion?

Erosion is a natural process that slowly wears away land. Wind, water, and ice can all cause erosion over time. It may happen so slowly that we don't notice it right away.

Rivers can cause **erosion** by carrying away pieces of rock and soil. Over many years, this can carve out deep valleys or even create **canyons**. Ocean waves crash into cliffs and slowly break off pieces of rock, changing the shape of the land.

Another type of erosion happens when wind blows loose sand and dirt through the air. In places like deserts, wind erosion can form tall hills called **sand dunes**.

Erosion is different from **weathering**. Weathering breaks rocks into smaller pieces, but erosion moves those pieces to new places.

People try to stop erosion when it damages farmland or roads. Planting trees or using rocks to block water can help protect the land.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Is Erosion?

1. What does the word **erosion** mean in the passage?

- A. The slow wearing away of land by wind, water, or ice
- B. A quick flood that washes away everything
- C. A type of mountain
- D. A way to plant trees

2. What is a **sand dune**?

- A. A hill formed by wind-blown sand
- B. A frozen river of ice
- C. A type of rocky cave
- D. A tree that blocks erosion

3. Fill in the blank:

Erosion is different from weathering because erosion \_\_\_\_\_ rock pieces to new places.

4. What clues in the passage help you understand what *erosion* means?

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5. How do the words *canyon*, *sand dune*, and *weathering* add to your understanding of the topic?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** N

**Lexile Level:** 530L-680L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational / Earth Science

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## Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading a science passage about erosion—how wind, water, and ice change the land. As we read, we'll focus on using context clues to figure out tricky words like *erosion*, *canyon*, and *weathering*."

**Vocabulary:** erosion, canyon, sand dune, weathering, protect

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think erosion means?
  2. Have you ever seen land that was shaped by water, wind, or ice?
  3. Why might people want to stop erosion?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are the different forces that cause erosion?
  2. What examples help you understand what a canyon is?
  3. How does erosion move pieces of land?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues helped you understand the meaning of *erosion* and *weathering*?
  2. How do different words in the passage show types of erosion?
  3. Why is learning these words important when reading about Earth science?
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## Activity Idea

Let students create an "Erosion Vocabulary Mini-Book." Each page features a new word (e.g., erosion, canyon, sand dune, weathering), a definition in their own words, a picture, and a sentence using the word in context. Display their books in a class Earth Science corner.

