



Erosion



Rocks can be eroded over time by moving water.

River and ocean water can wash particles of the rock away. Over time erosion makes the rock smooth and round.





This is Antelope Canyon in Arizona, USA. This canyon has been eroded over time due to flash flooding. Water rushes through the canyon after it has rained heavily in places further upstream. Particles of rock are washed downstream, making the canyon a little deeper with each flood event.



Rocks can be eroded over time by moving air.

Some rocks are more easily eroded. Which types of rock do you think are more likely to be eroded by wind?





This is Arbol de Piedra (Stone Tree) in Bolivia. This rock formation is located in in the highland region near the Andes Mountains.

The tree shape of this formation is the result of wind erosion.

These rocks are sandstone. High winds have eroded them into interesting shapes over time.

Weakness leads to fracturing. Rock pieces eventually break off the main structure. You can see that this rock (right) has split into three pieces.

Study*ladder*

