

Vocabulary list 4

1. **weathering**- The chemical and physical processes that break down rock at the Earth's surface.
2. **mechanical weathering (physical weathering)**- The type of weathering in which rock is physically broken into smaller pieces, (release of pressure= exfoliation, freezing and thawing= ice wedging, animal actions, burrowing, plant growth, abrasion=rock against rock)
3. **chemical weathering**- the process that breaks down rock through chemical changes.(water action, oxygen, carbon dioxide, living organisms produce acid, acid rain)
4. **erosion**- the process by which water, ice, wind, or gravity moves weathered rock or soil
5. **soil**-the loose, weathered material on Earth's surface in which plants can grow (contains sediment, organic material, water, and air)
6. **bedrock**- solid layer of rock beneath the soil.
7. **humus**- dark colored, decayed organic matter that supplies nutrients to plants and is found mainly in the top soil.
8. **soil horizon** - the layer of soil that differs in color and texture from the layers above or below it.
horizon A (top layer of soil) horizon B (middle layer) horizon C (bottom layer)
9. **soil conservation**- the management of soil to prevent its destruction
10. **contour plowing**-plowing fields along the curves of a slope to prevent soil loss
11. **conservation plowing**- soil conservation method in which the dead stalks from the previous year's crop are left in the ground to hold the soil in place.
12. **crop rotation**- the planting of different crops in a field each year to maintain the soil's fertility
13. **irrigation**- watering crops