

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser – Our Changing World

Key Facts

- Weathering is the process of wearing away rocks by the weather. There are three different types of weathering: Physical weathering, chemical weathering and biological weathering.
- Erosion is where natural materials are worn away and transported by environmental features such as water, wind and ice.
- Erosion is where wind blows loose particles away or into other rocks causing the rock to be worn away.
- Landscapes can change over time for many different reasons: New houses/buildings and roads are built, old buildings are demolished or updated, areas of land may be cleared for farming or building.
- Some landscapes are important and there are things in place to stop development such as: listed buildings, national/country parks, green belt/conservation areas, sites of specific scientific interest and world heritage sites.

Many countries and borders across the world have and are still changing due to:

Human Political activity – tribes claiming areas of land, invasion/war, migration of other settlers, Royal/political union.

Natural activity – Rising sea levels, natural processes and events e.g. changing river courses, volcanic eruptions.

These include the UK and other countries in Europe such as Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. These changes can have an impact on the borders, language, religion and culture of the country.

Features of Coastlines

Bays and Headlands	Where there is harder and softer rock, the softer rock will erode more quickly and can form bays. The harder rock erodes more slowly and can form headlands surrounding bays,
Arches, Stacks and Stumps	Softer or weak sections of the rock are eroded more easily. Over time, waves cause cracks to open forming caves. If a cave forms in a headland, it may break through causing an arch to form. The top of the arch can weaken and may collapse into the sea leaving a stack. Over time, the stack will erode leaving a small stump of rock.
Spits	Formed by deposition. The tide carries eroded material along the coastline. Deposits form a long, thin sandy area of land. Changing winds may cause the spit to form a hook shape. Mud flats develop on the inland side of the spit.



Key Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
acidic	A chemical substance, usually a liquid, which reacts with other substances to form salts. Some acids burns or dissolve other substances that they come into contact with.
Border/boundary	The outer part or edge of a region or country that divides it from another.
deposition	When material/sediment is moved and dropped off in a different place.
dissolve	When a solid substance mixes with a liquid to make a solution.
erosion	When natural materials are worn away and transported to a different place.
weathering	The process of wearing away rocks by the weather.
Physical weathering	Water gets into cracks in the rock, it can then freeze causing the water to expand creating cracks in the rock.
Chemical weathering	Slightly acidic rain water can cause a chemical reaction and over time this can dissolve some of the rock.
Biological weathering	Caused by animals and plants. Roots can grow under rocks and cause damage, animals can wear away paths, dig holes etc.



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