

Earth Science Vocabulary

WHO MADE THIS?

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Earth Science Vocabulary



WORD	DEFINITION
ABLATION	The process where ice or snow melts, evaporates, or breaks away from a glacier.
BEDROCK	The solid rock layer beneath soil and loose surface materials.
CAVE	A natural underground space formed in rock.
CORE	The extremely hot central layer of the Earth.
CRUST	The thin outer layer of the Earth where we live.
DELTA	A landform created by sediment deposited where a river meets a larger body of water.
EARTHQUAKE	A sudden shaking of the Earth caused by movement along faults in the crust.
EROSION	The process of soil and rock being worn away by wind, water, or ice.
FAULT	A crack in the Earth's crust where movement has occurred.
FOSSIL	The preserved remains or traces of ancient plants or animals.
GLACIER	A large mass of slowly moving ice formed from compacted snow.
ICE AGE	A long period of time when much of the Earth was covered by glaciers.
IGNEOUS	A type of rock formed when magma or lava cools and hardens.
LAVA	Molten rock that flows onto the Earth's surface during a volcanic eruption.
MAGMA	Molten rock located beneath the Earth's surface.
MANTLE	The thick layer of rock between the Earth's crust and core.
METAMORPHIC	A type of rock formed when existing rock changes due to heat and pressure.
MINERAL	A naturally occurring solid with a specific chemical composition.
MOUNTAIN	A large landform that rises high above the surrounding land.
OCEAN TIDE	The regular rise and fall of sea levels caused by the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun.
PANGEA	An ancient supercontinent that once included most of Earth's land.
RELIEF	The difference in elevation between the highest and lowest points in an area.
RIDGE	A long narrow chain of mountains or hills.
RIFT	A crack or split in the Earth's crust where tectonic plates move apart.
ROCK	A natural solid material made of one or more minerals.
SEDIMENTARY	A type of rock formed from layers of sediment pressed together over time.
SOIL	The top layer of Earth that supports plant life.
TECTONIC PLATES	Large pieces of the Earth's crust that move slowly over the mantle.
TOPOGRAPHY	The shape and features of the land surface in an area.
VOLCANO	An opening in the Earth's crust where magma, ash, and gases erupt.