Weathering Information

Use the information below to help you to identify and describe the different types of weathering shown in the question sheets that follow.



Freeze-Thaw Weathering

Rocks can be weathered by freeze-thaw. When it rains, water flows into the spaces and cracks in a rock's surface. When the water freezes in cooling temperatures, the ice expands. This means it takes up more space and forces the crack to open wider. Sometimes, it can cause the rock to crack and pieces to break off.



Onion Skin Weathering

Rocks can be weathered by onion skin weathering, or exfoliation. It is called this because the rock 'peels away' in layers. The sun heats up the rock's surface during the day. The heat causes the rock's surface to expand. At night, the temperature drops and the rock's surface cools and contracts. Eventually, the rock's surface breaks off.





