

Wind erosion

Air that moves is called wind. Wind can be gentle like a breeze. It can also be very strong in a storm. The Sun warms the air. Warm air is lighter than cold air. Warm air rises and cold air rushes in to replace it. This is what makes wind blow.

You can feel the wind blowing on your face.

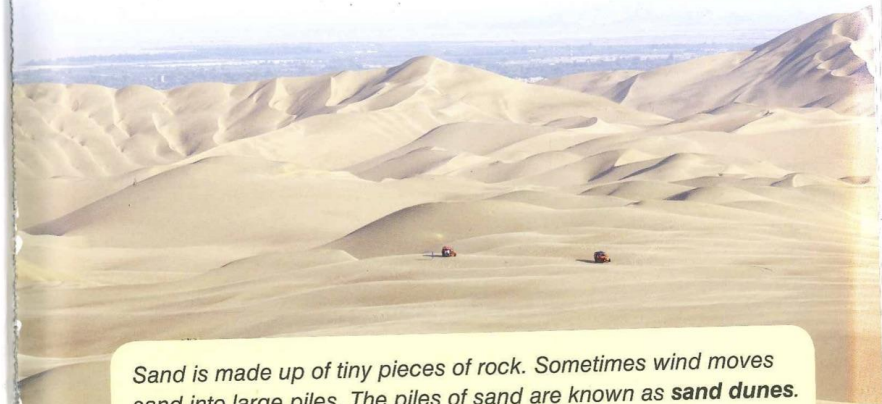


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Moving Earth

Wind can pick up and move tiny bits of rock and soil. Sometimes it can carry these pieces long distances before dropping them. Moving material from one place to another is called erosion.

*Sand is made up of tiny pieces of rock. Sometimes wind moves sand into large piles. The piles of sand are known as **sand dunes**.*



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Wind weathering

The tiny bits of sand and rock carried by the wind can also blow against landforms. This can cause other pieces of rock to break off. When this happens, it is known as wind weathering. The blowing pieces of rock wear away at the landform like **sandpaper**.

Some rocks can be weathered until they are smooth and flat.

Sandstorms happen when strong winds carry large amounts of sand in the air.



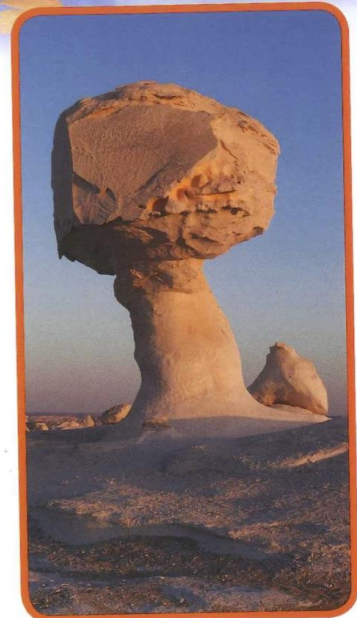
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Shaped by the wind

The wind cannot lift bits of sand and rock very high. So, they weather huge rocks near the ground. This can create strangely shaped rocks. The rocks become narrow at the bottom, but stay wide at the top.



Would you see more landforms weathered by wind in a cold, frozen desert or in a hot, sandy desert? Why?



Weathered rocks look a lot like mushrooms.

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