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# Our Changing Earth

Understanding Earth's Dynamic Changes and Processes

## DEFINITION

> Our changing Earth refers to the natural processes that reshape the planet's surface over time. These changes can be caused by both internal forces like tectonic activity and external forces like weathering and erosion.

## KEY CONCEPTS

### Tectonic Plates

The Earth's crust is divided into large pieces called tectonic plates that move and interact.

### Weathering

Weathering is the process of breaking down rocks into smaller pieces due to environmental factors.

### Erosion

Erosion involves the movement of weathered materials from one location to another, often by wind or water.

### Volcanoes

Volcanoes are openings in the Earth's crust where molten rock, ash, and gases can escape.

### Earthquakes

Earthquakes are sudden shaking of the ground caused by the movement of tectonic plates.

## EXAMPLES

→ The Himalayas were formed by the collision of tectonic plates.

→ Rivers can erode rocks and create valleys over time.

→ Volcanic eruptions can create new landforms like islands.

## MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'W.E.E.V.' for Weathering, Erosion, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes.

★ Visualize tectonic plates as puzzle pieces that fit together and move.

★ Think of weathering as 'breaking' and erosion as 'moving'.

## COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing weathering with erosion; they are different processes.

✗ Overlooking the role of human activity in changing landscapes.

✗ Not recognizing that earthquakes can occur anywhere in the world.

## QUICK RECAP

Our changing Earth involves processes like tectonic movement, weathering, and erosion. Understanding these concepts helps us grasp how landscapes evolve over time.