



### Words to Know

**Weathering:** The *breaking* apart of rocks.

**Erosion:** The *movement* of rocks from one place to another place.

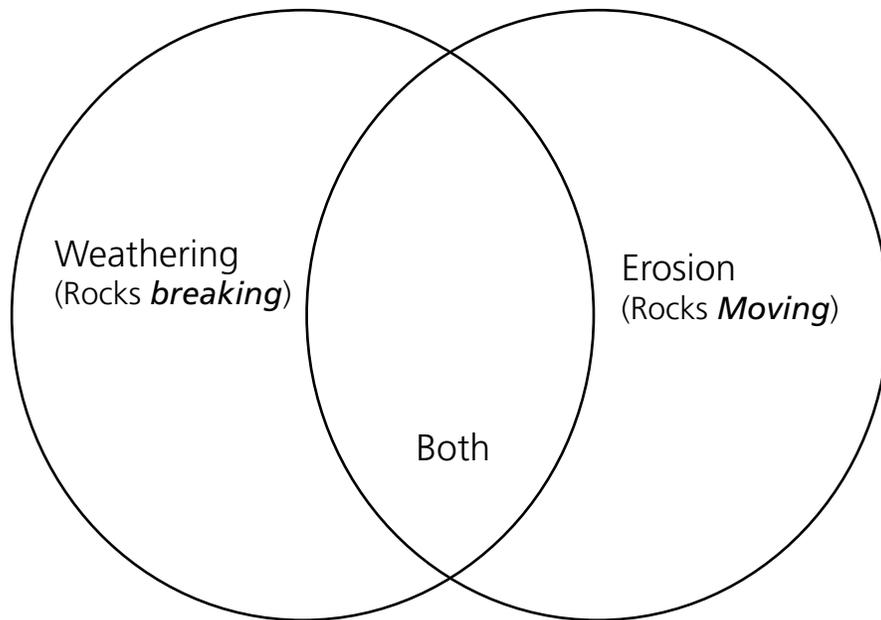
**Monolith:** A rock formation that looks like a tower or a spire.

### Brainstorm

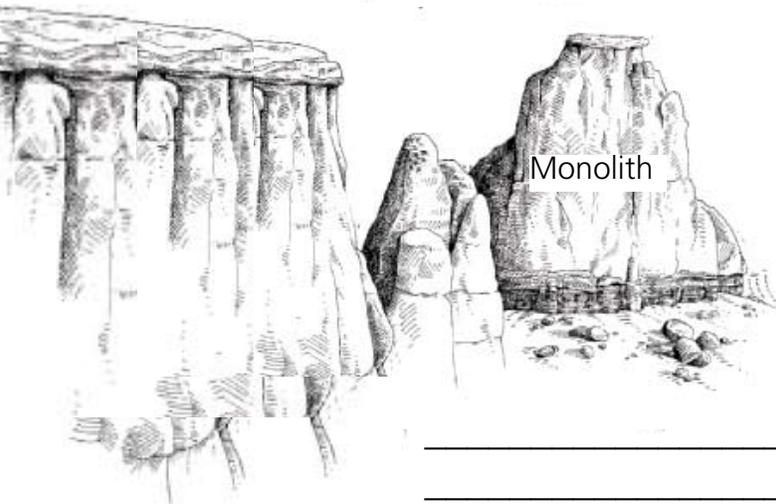
List these examples of weathering and/or erosion inside the correct section of the circles. Think about each example. Could it *break* rock, *move* rock or do *both*?

Examples:

- Roots growing
- Ice melting
- Water freezing
- Snow melting
- Floods
- Gravity
- Streams
- Wind



### Think About It



How do you think this monolith formed? Write a story, using examples of weathering and erosion, describe how this landform was shaped. You can draw pictures or add to this picture if it helps to explain your story.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Answer Key

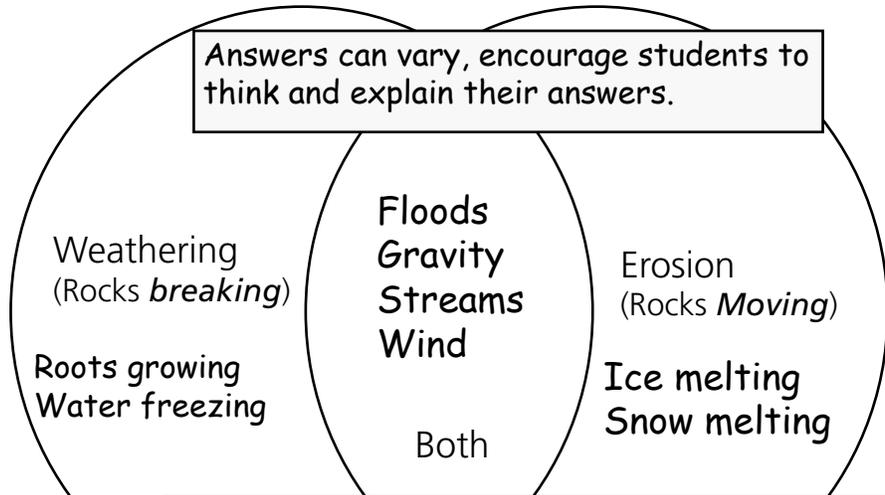
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**Monolith:** A rock formation that looks like a tower or a spire.

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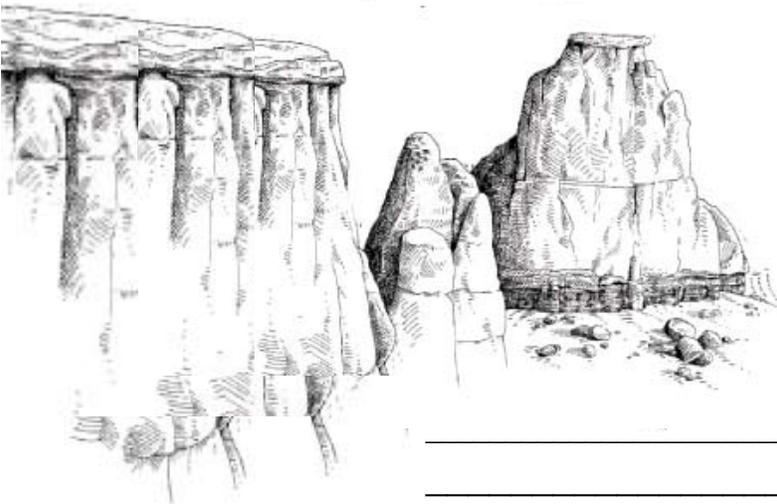
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- Examples:  
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Ice melting  
Water freezing  
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Floods  
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Streams  
Wind



If wind picks up sand, it can move it = erosion.  
If the wind and sand scour a cliff, it can cause weathering.

### Think About It



How do you think this monolith formed?  
Write a story, using examples of weathering and erosion, describe how this landform was shaped. You can draw pictures or add to this picture if it helps to explain your story.

Answers will vary.

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# Colorado National Monument

## Environmental Education

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### Weathering and Erosion: Post-Field Trip Activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Brainstorm

List two examples of weathering or erosion that you saw evidence of during your hike at Colorado National Monument.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

### Matching

The pictures explain how Independence Monument formed. They are in chronological order. Draw a line to match the description with each picture.



The strong Kayenta caprock on top of Independence Monument protected it like a roof on a house.

At one time a solid rock wall separated Monument Canyon from Wedding Canyon.

Over time, weathering weakened the wall causing cracks to form. Then, erosion by flash floods carried pieces of rock down the canyon.

### Quiz a Classmate

Write two questions along with the correct answers to quiz your classmate.

Your quiz questions should be related to weathering and erosion.

When you are finished, trade questions with a partner.

1. Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: \_\_\_\_\_



### Weathering and Erosion: Post-Field Trip Activity

### Answer Key

#### Brainstorm

List two examples of weathering or erosion that you saw evidence of during your hike at Colorado National Monument.

Answers will vary.

Weathering: cracks in rocks, tree roots sticking out of rocks, broken rocks, etc.

Erosion: The canyons, cliffs and landforms or rocks that have fallen, etc.

#### Matching

The pictures explain how Independence Monument formed. They are in chronological order. Draw a line to match the description with each picture.



The strong Kayenta caprock on top of Independence Monument protected it like a roof on a house.

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#### Quiz a Classmate

Write two questions along with the correct answers to quiz your classmate.

Your quiz questions should be related to weathering and erosion.

When you are finished, trade questions with a partner.

1. Q: \_\_\_\_\_ **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_ What is one example of weathering? \_\_\_\_\_

A: \_\_\_\_\_ Lichen can break rock. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Q: \_\_\_\_\_ What are the four ingredients of sandstone? \_\_\_\_\_

A: \_\_\_\_\_ Sand, water, pressure, time \_\_\_\_\_