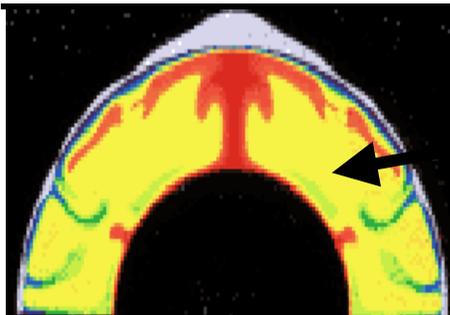


core



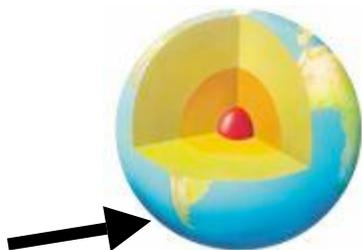
the center of the Earth



mantle

the middle layer of the Earth  
made up of molten (melted)  
rock

crust

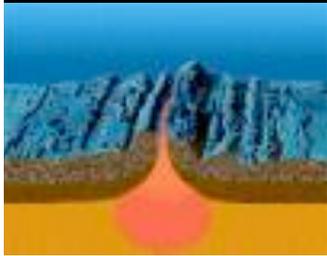


the surface layer of the  
Earth that includes the  
continents and oceans

continental drift



the theory of how Earth's  
continents move over its  
surface



# plate tectonics

the theory of how the continents move on giant crustal plates over the mantle of the Earth

# earthquake



a sudden movement of the Earth's crust

# mountain



a landform caused by the uplift of the Earth's crust; created when two crustal plates press against each other

# volcano



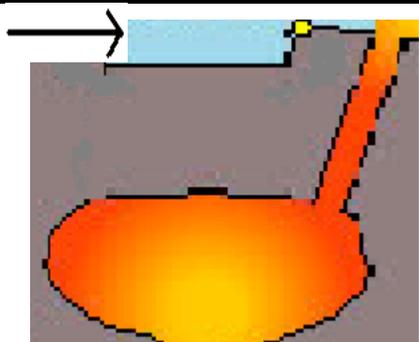
an opening in the Earth's crust through which lava, ash, and gases flow



lava

melted rock flowing on the surface of the Earth, usually from a volcano

magma



melted rock under Earth's surface; magma flows in the mantle

growth



creation of new landforms (by crustal plate movements, hardened lava flow and deposition of sediments)

flow



movement of material (such as the crustal plates moving over the mantle, lava sliding down a volcano, or the water in a river moving down a mountain side)

# landform



a natural feature of the surface of the Earth that has a particular shape

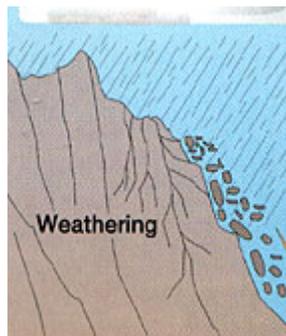
# constructive forces

actions that build up, or construct, landforms

# destructive forces

actions that wear down, or destroy, landforms

# weathering



the process of breaking rock into soil, sand, and other tiny pieces

# erosion



the process of moving sediment from one place to another

# deposition



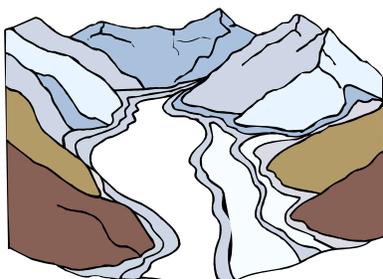
the process of dropping (or depositing) sediment in a new location

# glacier



a large river of ice that moves

# valley



a low area between hills and mountains; V-shaped valleys are formed by rivers; U-shaped valleys are formed by glaciers

dune



a mound, hill, or ridge of wind-blown sand

beach



gently sloping shore next to a body of water, washed by waves or tides, often covered by sand and pebbles

plateau



a nearly level area that has been uplifted

plain



a nearly level area that has been eroded or where material has been deposited



flood

when water gets higher than normal and flows onto dry land

floodplain

the land that gets covered by water from a stream or river during a flood



canyon

a long, narrow, deep valley with steep walls that is formed by running water cutting into the earth

meander



a curve or loop in a river

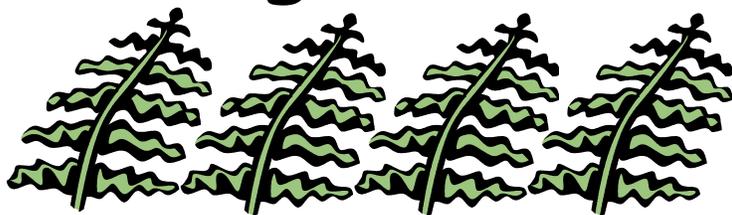
delta



a fan-shaped deposit at the mouth of a river

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/7/7a/Mississippi River Delta and Sediment Plume.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/7/7a/Mississippi_River_Delta_and_Sediment_Plume.jpg)

groundcover



small plants that grow on the forest floor or in a field (for example, ferns, mosses and grasses)



sediments

pieces of rock or earth that have been broken down by weathering

fossil



the trace of a plant or animal from long ago (millions of years) that is embedded in the Earth's crust

soil



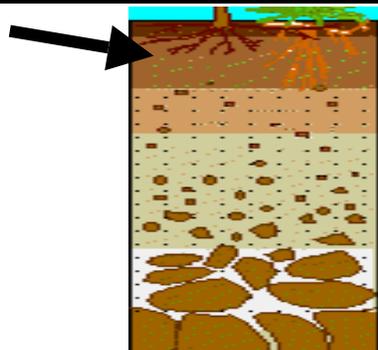
the top layer of the Earth's surface that is made of rocks, minerals, and plant material

humus



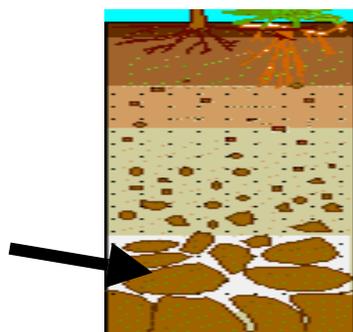
the decomposing remains of dead plants and animals

topsoil



the upper, dark brown soil where plants grow

bedrock



the rock layer that is under the soil



rock formed by the deposit of sediments that undergo pressure over time

## natural resources



materials found in the environment that are not manmade

## renewable resource



a resource that can be replaced in a short amount of time or is continually replenished (plants, animals, water, oxygen, soil, sunlight, wind, and ocean tides)

## nonrenewable resource



a resource that cannot be replaced in a short amount of time (oil, natural gas, coal, minerals, rocks)

recycle



to reprocess discarded material (aluminum cans, plastic, paper) to form new products



fossil fuels

materials formed from decayed remains of ancient plants and animals that are burned to produce heat; coal, oil, and natural gas