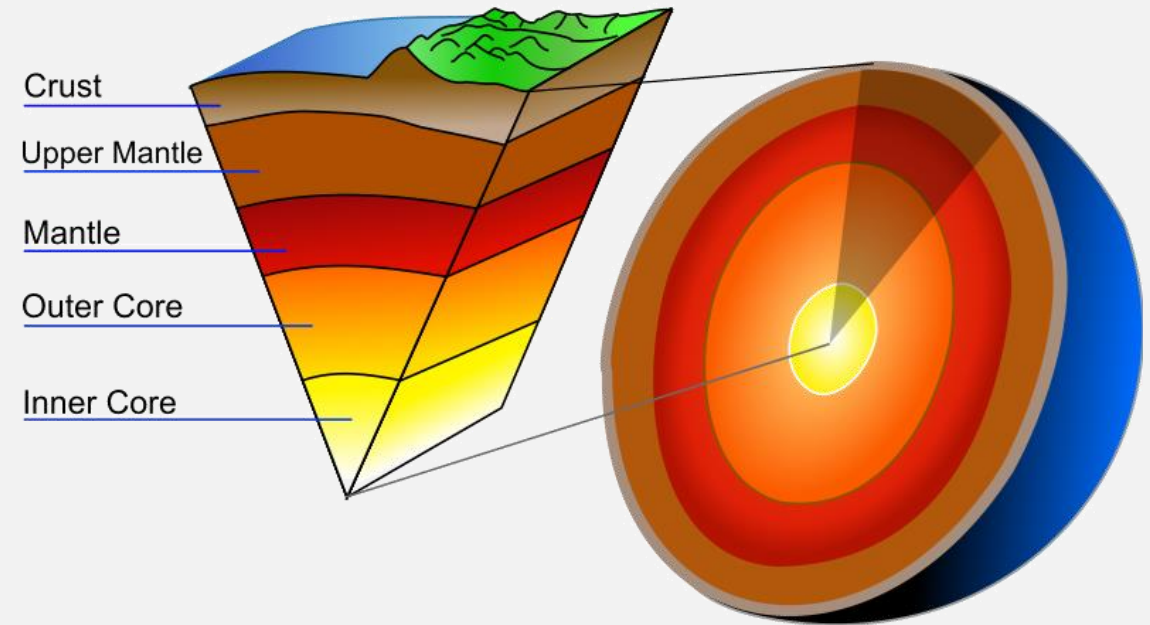


PROCESSES THAT CHANGE EARTH'S SURFACE

By: Miss. Sheppard

THE LAYERS OF EARTH

The Earth is made up of 5 main layers. They are Crust, Upper Mantle, Mantle, Outer Core, and Inner Core. There are a few processes that can change not only the surface of the Earth that we see, but also all the way down to the Mantle Layer.



NATURAL DISASTERS

Natural Disasters can cause major changes to Earth's surface. Natural disasters include volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, and droughts. Each of these have aspects to them that could cause either erosion or surface weathering.



In this photo, flooding has caused enough erosion to damage a road.

Magma from volcanoes can create new land after it has cooled.



Droughts cause the surface of Earth to breakdown and become hard to farm.

EROSION

Erosion can easily be confused with weathering but they are not the same. Erosion can be caused when there is heavy rainfall. The water accumulates and washes away minerals in the dirt causing trenches and rivers. Weathering is the breaking down of rock, while erosion washes it away.





WEATHERING

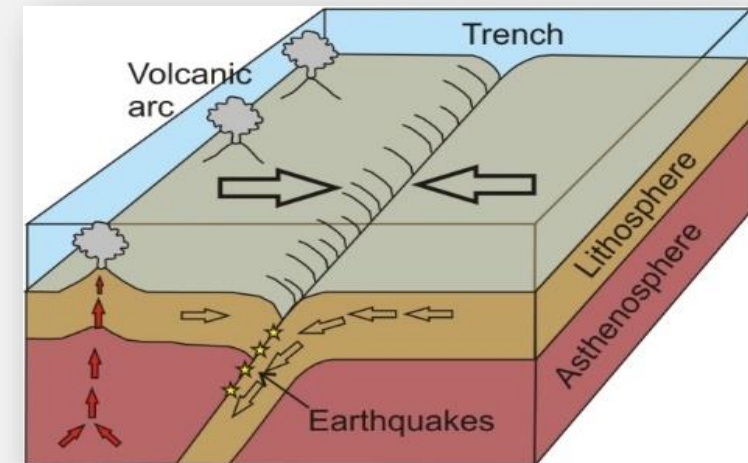
Weathering is the breaking down or dissolving of rocks and minerals that are on the surface of Earth. Water is the main cause of weathering, along with temperature and animals. All rocks are prone to weathering.

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are caused by the movements of plate tectonics below Earth's surface. They can move in many different ways and at any given time. There are instruments that scientists use to help predict when earthquakes are going to occur.



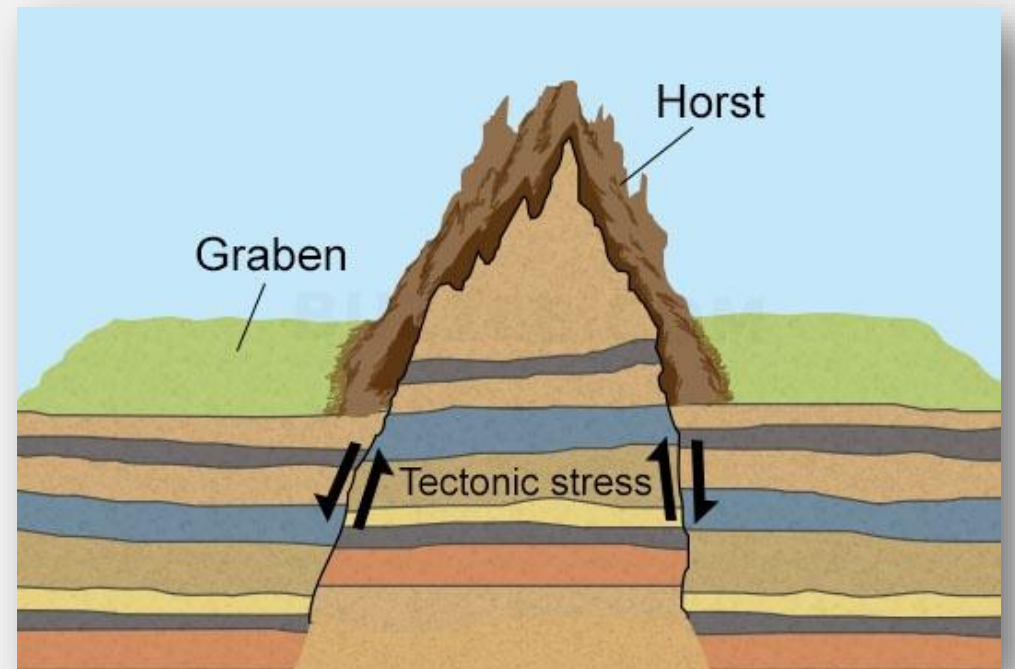
This is a photo of the San Andreas fault, and the effects that it has had to Earth.



This demonstrates the movement of plates to create earthquakes.

MOUNTAINS

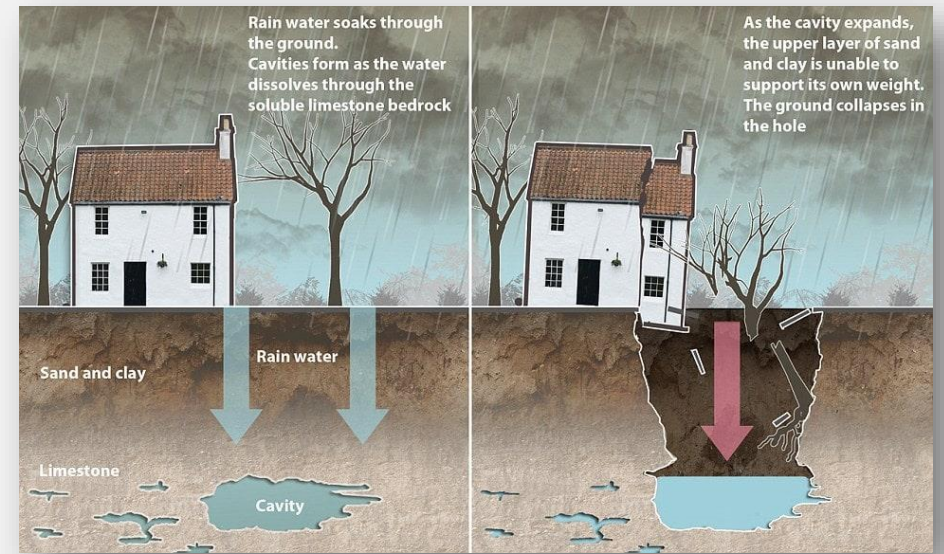
Mountains are formed by the pushing together of plate tectonics. Just as how earthquakes happen due to plate tectonics moving past one another, when the plates collide they create a mountain.



A horst is a risen block of Earth's crust. A graben is a block of Earth that sets lower than the blocks of Earth next to it.

SINKHOLES

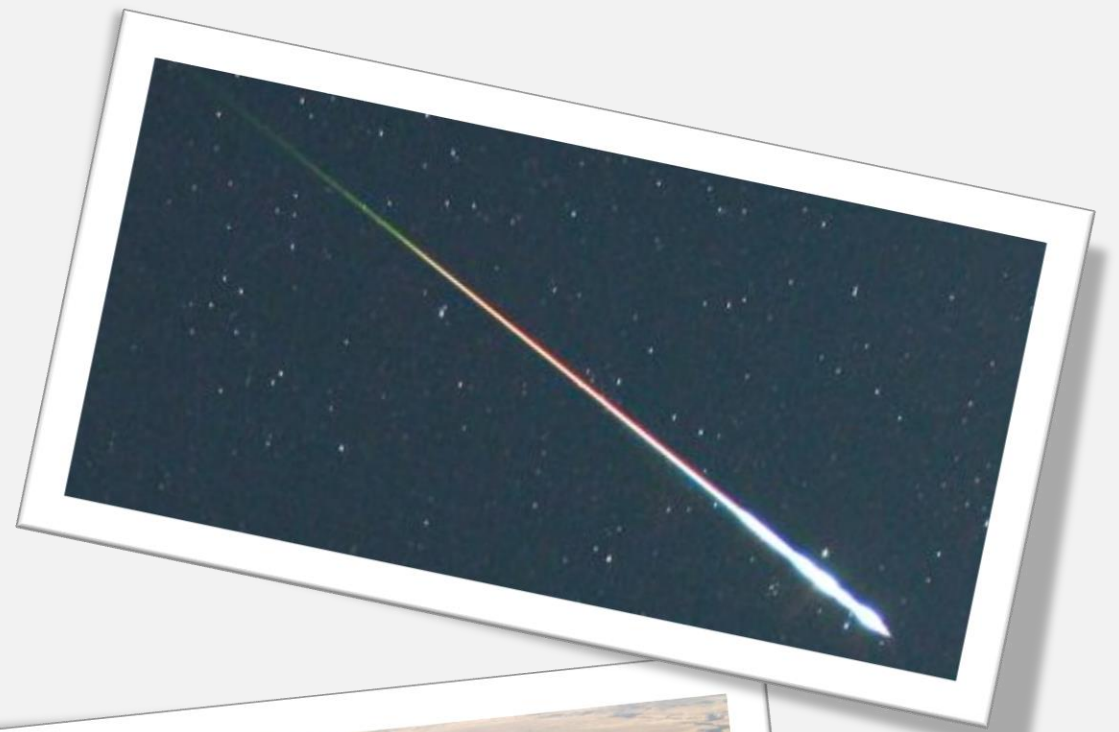
Sinkholes are formed when rainfall is absorbed by the soil and takes in carbon dioxide as well as decaying vegetation. This causes the water to become acidic and creates many cavities in the Earth. When the land above the holes under the surface collapses, it creates a large, dangerous, hole.



This is an image of a sinkhole that occurred in Jonesboro.

METEOR IMPACTS

A meteor is a small rocky or metallic body that enters Earth's atmosphere from space. They range in a variety of sizes. Once they impact the surface, it can leave a large hole.





On your way home today, look for unique landforms and changes in the landscape. How did they form? How do these changes to the surface of Earth effect both humans and animals?

