

sediment

loose materials, such as mineral grains and rock fragments that have been moved by erosional forces

erosion

process in which surface materials are worn away and transported from one place to another by agents such as gravity, water, wind, and glaciers

deposition

dropping of sediments that occurs when an agent of erosion, such as gravity, a glacier, wind, or water loses energy and can no longer carry its load

mass movement

any type of erosion that occurs as gravity moves materials down-slope

slump

a type of mass movement that occurs when a mass of material moves down a curved slope

creep

a type of mass movement in which sediments move down-slope very slowly, is common in areas of freezing and thawing, and can cause walls, trees, and fences to lean downhill

plasticlike

not completely solid or liquid; capable of being molded or changing form

glacier

large, moving masses of ice and snow that changes large areas of Earth's surface through erosion and deposition

plucking

process that adds gravel, sand, and boulders to a glacier's bottom and sides as water freezes and thaws, breaking off pieces of surrounding rock

till

mixture of different-sized sediments that is dropped from the base of a retreating glacier and can cover huge areas of land

moraine

large ridge of rocks and soil deposited by a glacier when it stops moving forward

outwash

material deposited by meltwater from a glacier

friction

force that opposes the motion of an object when the object is in contact with another object or surface

deflation

a type of erosion that occurs when wind blows over loose sediments, removes small particles, and leaves coarser sediments behind

abrasion

a type of erosion that occurs when windblown sediments strike rocks and sediments, polishing and pitting their surface

loess

windblown
deposit of tightly
packed, fine
grained sediments

dune

mound formed when
windblown sediments
pile up behind an
obstacle; common
landform in desert areas

