

STORMWATER

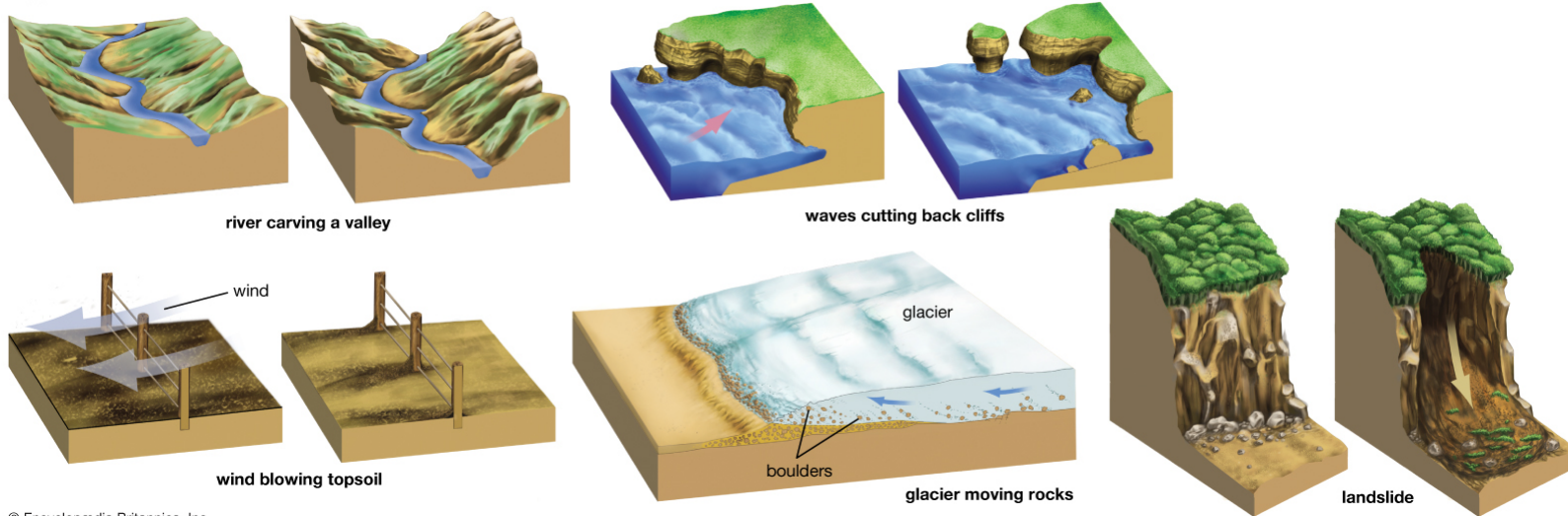
Tip of the Week

Week 48 December 7, 2021

EROSION

Erosion is the geological process in which earthen materials (dirt and rock) are worn away and transported by forces such as wind, water, plants, animals, and humans.

Types of Erosion



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WHY IS EROSION BAD?

Most erosion is performed by liquid water, wind, or ice (usually in the form of a glacier). If the wind is dusty, or water or glacial ice is muddy, erosion is taking place. The brown color indicates that bits of rock and soil are suspended in the fluid and being transported from one place to another. This transported material is called sediment.

Liquid water is the most major agent of erosion on Earth. Rain, rivers, floods, lakes, and oceans carry away bits of soil and sand and slowly wash away the sediment.

Erosion is a natural process but animal and human activity can magnify the process. When top soil is disturbed or exposed it will be washed away by stormwater runoff causing sediment to enter our water ways.

Sediment can be quite harmful to our watershed. It can affect aquatic and wild life, cause flooding from clogging water ways, and inhibit drinking water purification systems.

HOW TO HELP PREVENT EROSION

Stormwater Management is a fantastic way to help slow the processes of erosion -like planting trees and plants or adding a rain garden. If you live on a river, stream, or lake take a look at the bank for signs of erosion. Planting native vegetation along your banks is a great way to help ease the banks from washing in, causing sediment from bank erosion.

Doing some work to your property? Be cautious with disturbing dirt and be mindful that if it rains, that it will wash away. Use silt fencing or rolls to keep sediment from washing into waterways or stormdrains. For some projects you may need to contact the City's Building Department to obtain a permit and guidance.

