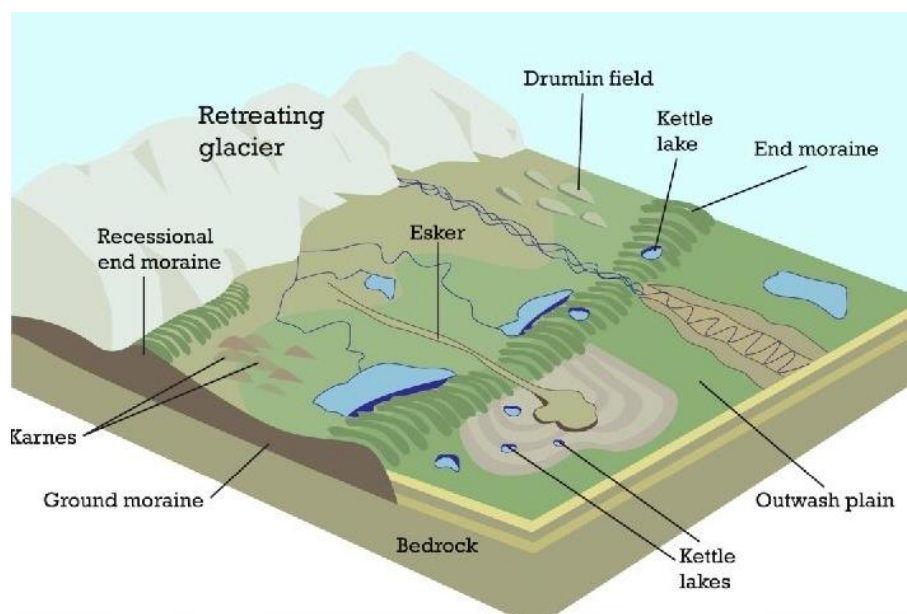


S6E5(d) Erosion, Transportation and Deposition Supplemental Material

Erosion is the process of breaking down material from the Earth and moving it from one point to another, carried by ice, wind or water. Eroded material settles in another location through the process of deposition. Lightweight soils are carried for great distances by the wind. The photo below shows sand from the Sahara Desert in Northern Africa crossing the Atlantic on the wind. It is deposited in the ocean and the islands of the Caribbean, as well as northern South America and southern North America.



Glaciers scrape material out of the Earth and move them to another location. The sediment left behind when they melt creates hills in a variety of shapes and leaves divots in the land where large rocks were removed, which often become ponds.



Rivers deposit sediment as their waters slow down. Most sediment is deposited in river curves and on deltas that form at the mouth of rivers, where they enter larger bodies of water.



Chemical and physical weathering also breaks down solid materials found in the Earth's crust. Chemical weathering breaks or weakens these materials through interaction between water and substances found within various types of rock. Over a long period of time, water percolating through mountains freed the rocks in this gravel bed from their surroundings and deposited at the bottom of the river.



Mechanical or physical weathering breaks down material from the Earth into its component parts using the direct force of water and wind.



Water and wind that weather the Earth are also the agents that transport rocks and sediments to other places. They may arrive at the bottom of a slope, like the rocks in the gravel bar, or on the other side of the world, like the dust in the plume from the Sahara Desert.