

Key word	Definition
atmosphere	The mixture of gases surrounding the Earth.
biological weathering	The breaking up or wearing down of rocks by the action of living things.
carbon cycle	The carbon cycle shows stores of carbon, and summarises how carbon and its compounds enter and leave these stores.
carbon store	A place where carbon and its compounds may remain for a long time. Carbon stores include the atmosphere, oceans, sedimentary rocks, fossil fuels, the soil, and living organisms.
cementation	The 'gluing together' of sediments by different chemicals to make sedimentary rocks.
chemical weathering	The breaking up or wearing down of rocks by the action of chemicals such as those in rainwater.
climate change	A long-term change in weather patterns.
combustion	A burning reaction, in which a substance reacts quickly with oxygen, and gives out light and heats the surroundings.
compaction	The process of squashing sediments together to make new rocks by the weight of layers above.
crust	The rocky outer layer of the Earth.
deforestation	The cutting down or burning of trees in forests.
deposition	The settling of sediments that have moved away from their original rock.
durable	A property of a material meaning that it is difficult to damage.
erosion	The breaking of a rock into sediments, and their movement away from the original rock.
freeze-thaw	Weathering of rocks that happens as a result of water repeatedly freezing and thawing.
global warming	The gradual increase in the Earth's mean air temperature.
greenhouse effect	The absorbing of energy by gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide.
greenhouse gas	A gas that contributes to climate change, such as carbon dioxide.
igneous	Rock made when liquid rock (magma or lava) cools and freezes.
inner core	The solid iron and nickel at the centre of the Earth.
lava	Liquid rock that is above the Earth's surface.
magma	Liquid rock that is below the Earth's surface.

mantle	The layer of Earth that is below the crust. It is solid but can flow very slowly.
metamorphic	Rock formed by the action of heating and/or pressure on the sedimentary or igneous rock.
outer core	The liquid iron and nickel between the Earth's mantle and inner core.
photosynthesis	The process plants use to make their own food, glucose. In photosynthesis, carbon dioxide and water react together to make glucose and oxygen.
physical weathering	The breaking up or wearing down of rocks by the effects of changing temperature.
porous	A porous material has small gaps that may contain substances in their liquid or gas states. Water can soak into a porous material.
radiation	The transfer of energy as a wave.
recycling	Collecting and processing materials that have been used, to make new objects.
respiration	The process that transfers energy from plants and animals. In respiration, glucose reacts with oxygen to make carbon dioxide and water.
rock cycle	The rock cycle explains how rocks change and are recycled into new rocks over millions of years.
sediment	Pieces of rock that have broken away from their original rock.
sedimentary	Rock made from sediments.
transport	Movement of sediments far from their original rock.
troposphere	The part of the atmosphere nearest the Earth.
uplift	Uplift happens when huge forces from inside the Earth push rocks upwards.
weathering	Weathering breaks up all types of rock into smaller pieces, called sediments.