

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 1

chemical weathering processes by which the materials in a rock are changed into new materials

environment physical, chemical, and biotic factors acting in a community

mechanical weathering processes by which rock is broken into smaller pieces

oxidation cause of chemical weathering; combines the element oxygen with other elements or molecules

weathering mechanical and chemical processes that change objects on Earth's surface over time

Lesson 2

biota all the organisms living in a region

climate average weather of an area

decomposition process that changes once-living material into organic matter

horizon layer of soil formed from the movement of the products of weathering

organic matter remains of something that was once alive

parent material starting material—rock or sediment—that weathers and forms soil

pore small hole or space in soil

sediment rock material that has been broken down or dissolved in water

soil mixture of weathered rock, rock fragments, decayed organic matter, water, and air

topography shape and steepness of the landscape