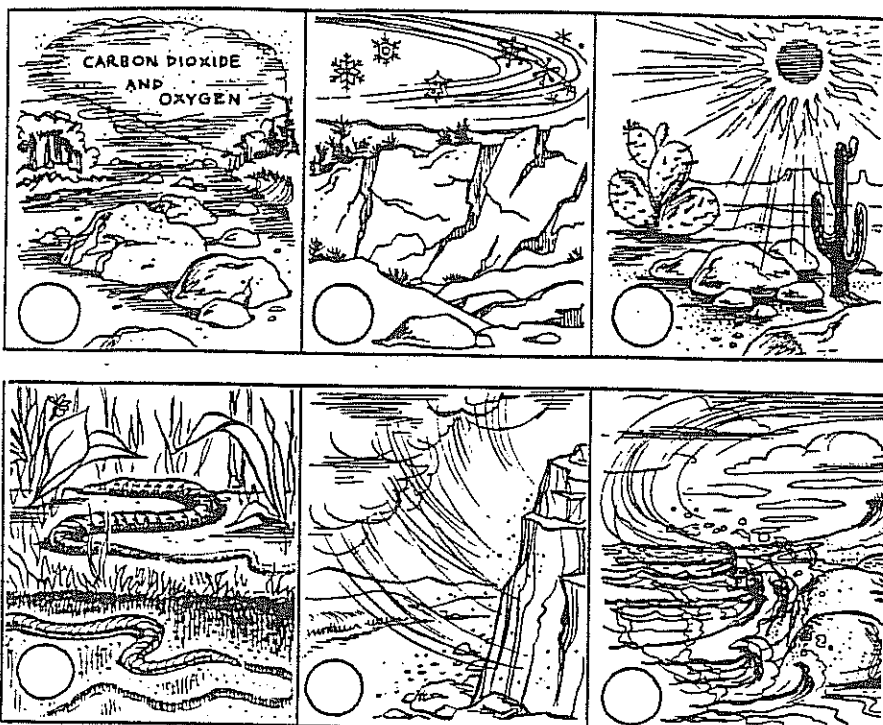


Name _____ Date _____

FORCES THAT ACT ON ROCKS



HOW ROCKS ARE BROKEN DOWN

1. Moving water, such as waves breaking on a shore, wears away rocks into fine bits.
2. Water in a rock crack expands when it freezes. The expansion force is so great it can split the rock.
3. Oxygen, carbon dioxide, and moisture are all present in air. When they combine with chemicals in rocks, the rocks break down and decay.
4. The pelting, grinding action of wind-driven dust or sand can reduce great rocks to small grains.
5. Earthworms take soil into their systems. After they have taken food from the soil, they discard the soil, but in much smaller grains than when they took it in.
6. Changes in temperature will help turn rocks into soil. During the day, rocks expand as they are warmed by the sun. After the sun goes down, rocks cool and contract (shrink). The expansion and contraction puts stress on the rocks and may cause them to split.

1. Powdered rock is the most common part of soil. The information in the box at the right tells how rocks are turned into powder.

Match the numbered descriptions in the box with the pictures above. Write the numbers of the descriptions in the circles in the pictures.

2. How is it possible for a small amount of ice to crack a rock?

3. What part does the wind play in wearing away rocks?

4. Why would earthworms be good to have in gardens?

5. Many deserts are cold at night and warm during the day. How does this affect rocks in a desert?
