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Weathering is a natural process that involves the breakdown of rocks into smaller pieces through physical or chemical means. It plays a crucial role in shaping our landscape and forming soil. There are two primary types of weathering: mechanical, which breaks down rocks physically, and chemical, which involves the alteration of minerals. Mechanical weathering occurs when rocks are subjected to physical forces that cause them to break apart. This can happen through frost wedging, where water seeps into cracks and freezes, expanding and causing the rock to split. Root wedging occurs when plant roots grow into cracks, breaking the rock as they expand. Exfoliation happens due to temperature fluctuations, causing the outer layers of rocks to crack off in sheets. Abrasion is another method of mechanical weathering, where wind, water, or ice wears down rocks, smoothing their surfaces and rounding them. On the other hand, chemical weathering involves the breakdown of minerals through chemical reactions. This process can lead to soil formation, as rocks are broken down into smaller particles over time. Understanding the different types of weathering and how they contribute to soil formation is essential for comprehending this topic.

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