

# physical weathering *(phys-i-cal-wea-ther-ing)*

## Definition

n. The process of breaking down rocks and minerals into smaller pieces by physical forces, such as temperature changes, water, ice, or wind, without changing their chemical composition.

## Example Sentence

**Physical weathering** caused the rock to crack and crumble over time.

## More Example Sentences

The expansion of ice in the cracks of rocks is a common form of **physical weathering**.

## Synonyms

mechanical weathering; disintegration;  
fragmentation

## Antonyms

chemical weathering; erosion; dissolution

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