Rocks

Erosion

Erosion

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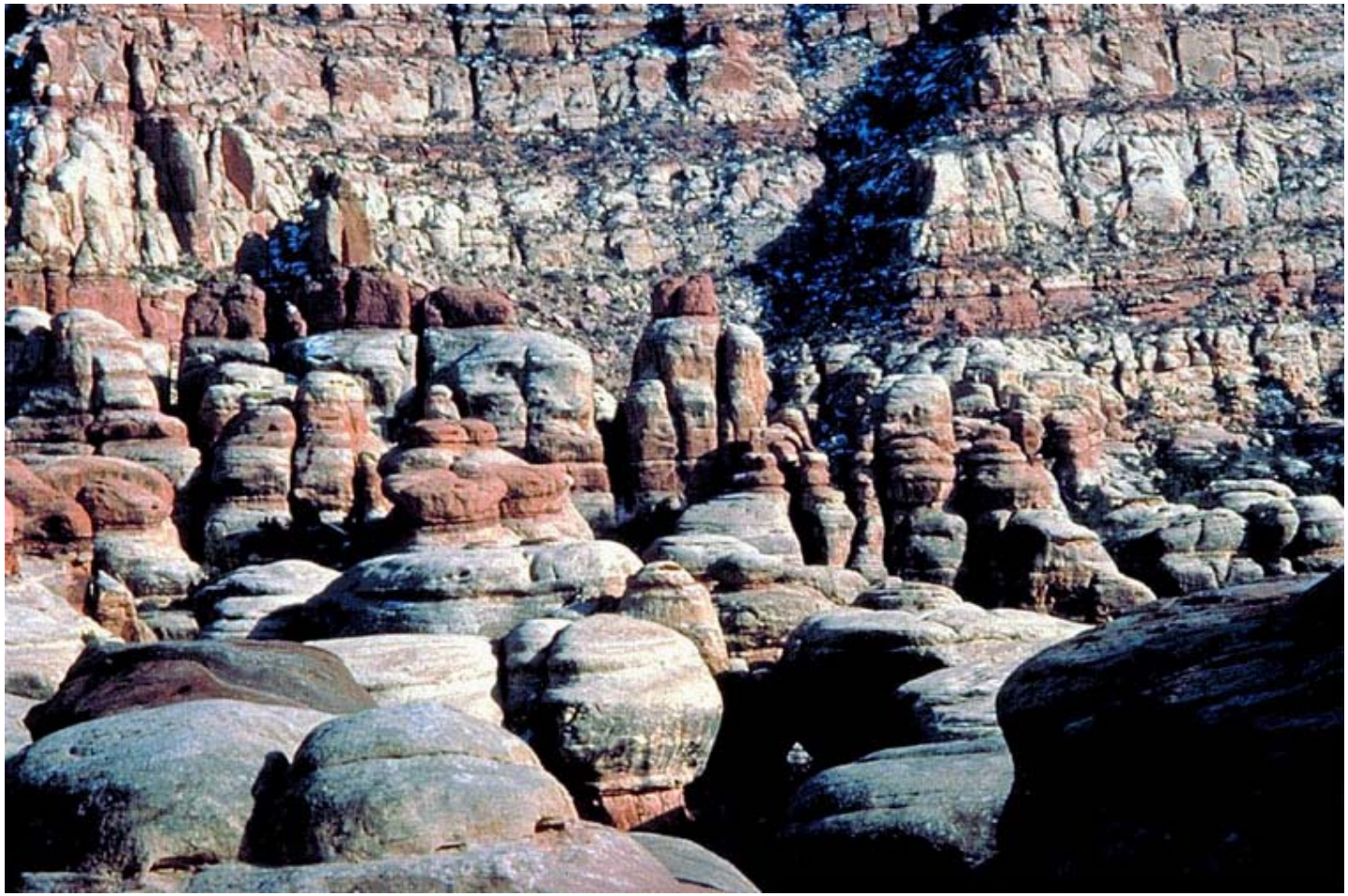
Erosion



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Erosion

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Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks

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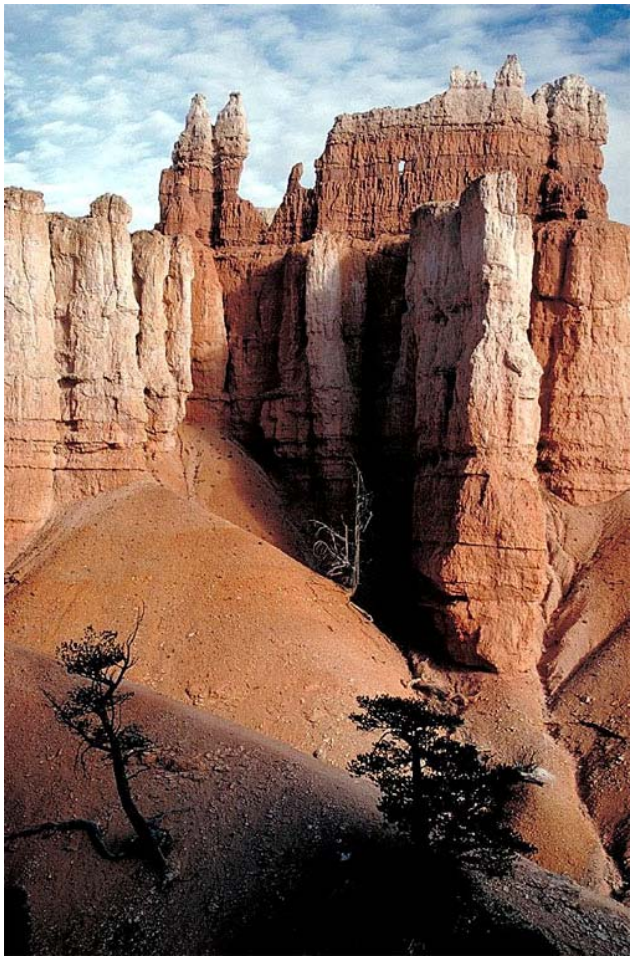
Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks



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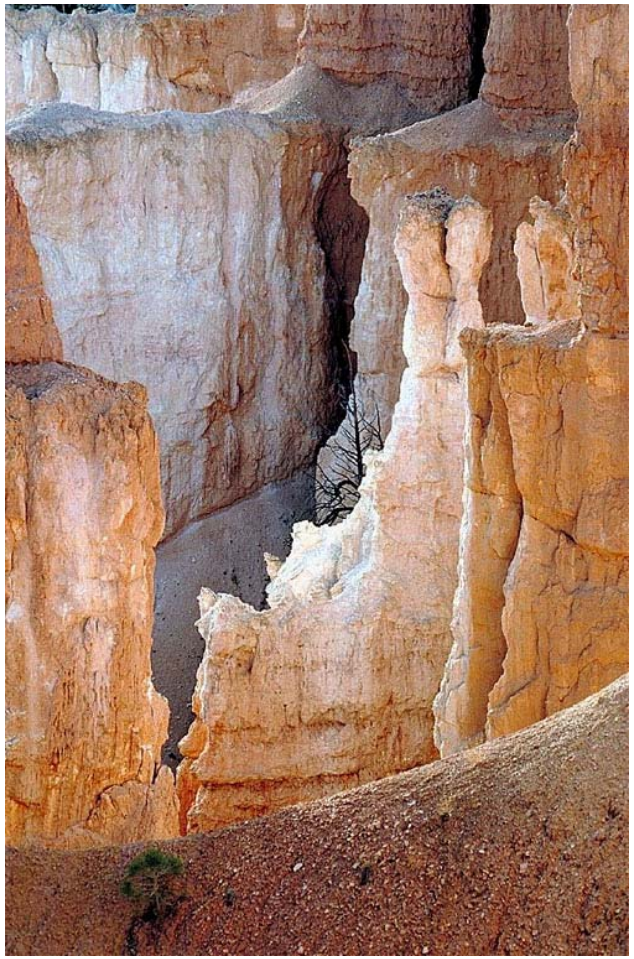
Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks



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Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks

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Erosion of Metamorphic Rock

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Erosion of Igneous Rocks

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Erosion of Igneous Rocks

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River Erosion

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River or Stream Erosion

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River Erosion

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Stream Erosion

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Glacial Erosion

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Glacial Erosion

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Rocks

Erosion

Erosion

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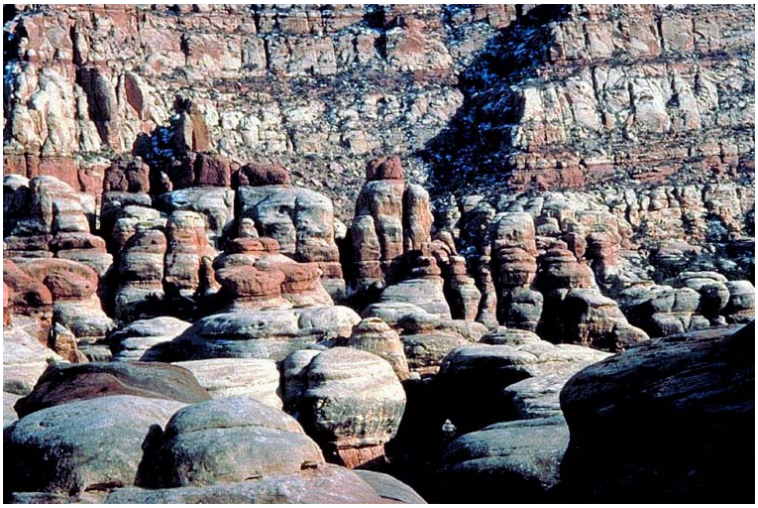
Debris flows.

Erosion



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Weathering and erosion along joints in rocks.

Erosion

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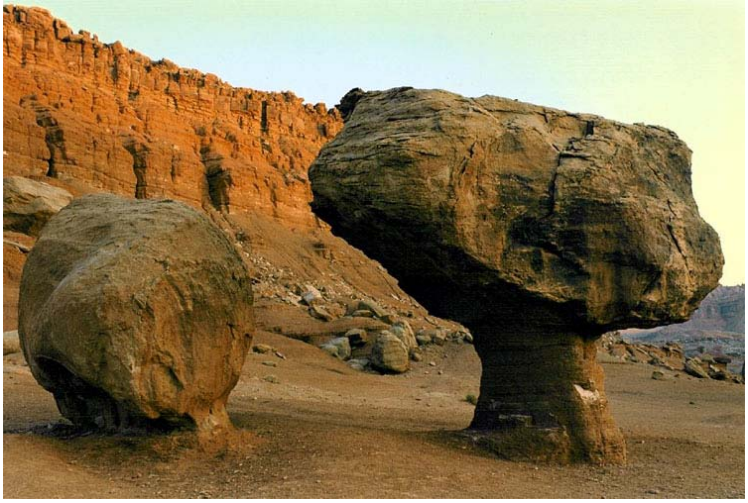
This series of waterfalls in Bear Canyon, a feature of Arizona's Santa Catalina Mountains, illustrate the erosional power of running water and the differential resistance to erosion by different rock layers.

Erosion



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Boulders that have tumbled downslope from the cliffs in background now sit on pedestals that remain from downwash erosion of the soft underlying soil.

Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks

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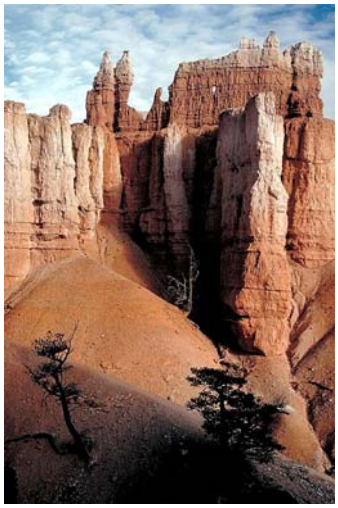
Erosion shapes the sandstone into mesas, buttes, pinnacles, and gullies -- all are visible in this image. Differential erosion has produced alternating cliffs and slopes. Cliffs form on resistant sandstone and limestone formations; slopes develop in nonresistant shale. Talus slopes abound where weathering of the fins and columns has proceeded more rapidly than removal of the eroded material.

Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks



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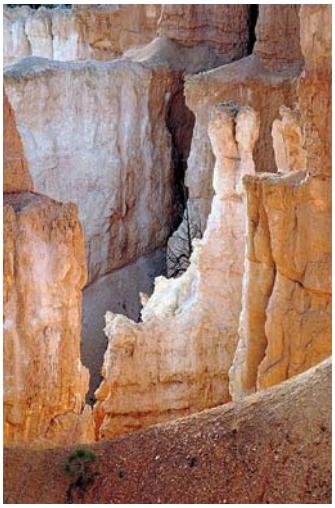
Pinnacles formed by erosion in Bryce Canyon.

Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks



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Freshwater limestone being eroded. Part of the Wasatch Formation.

Erosion of Sedimentary Rocks

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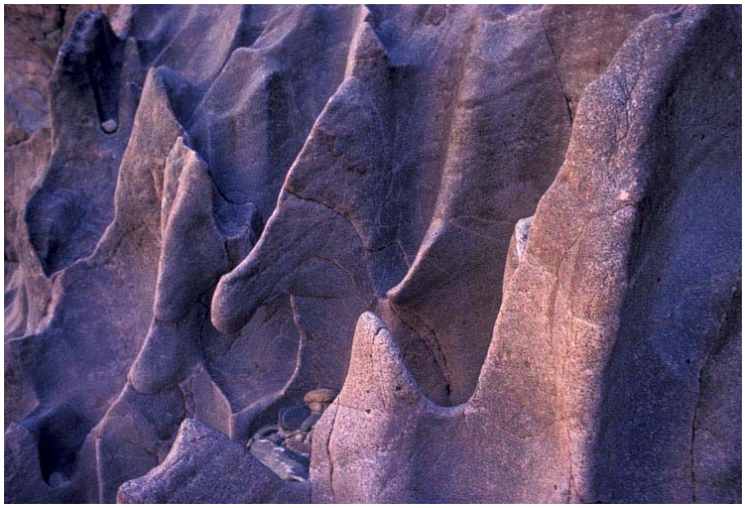
Detail of a ventifact, which is a stone that has been cut and eroded through wind-blown sand.

Erosion of Metamorphic Rock



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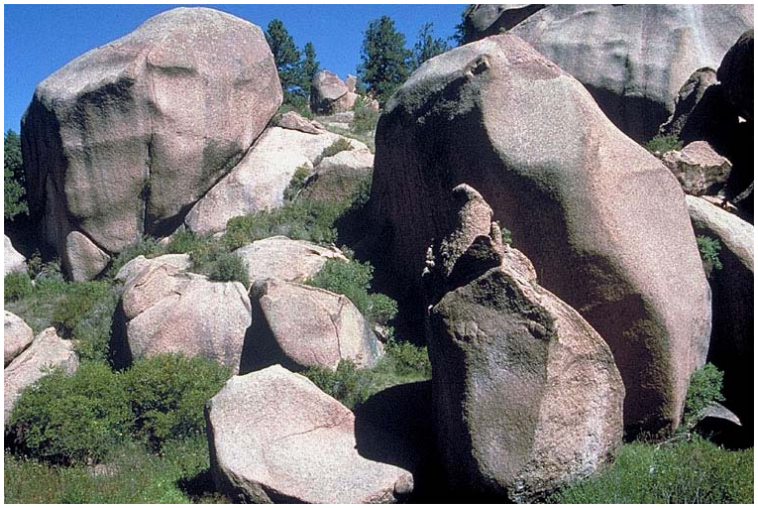
This Vishnu Schist in Arizona's Grand Canyon is 1,700 million years old and serves as the basement for the rock layers in the canyon wall. During high water this section is under water and subject to abrasion by the river's load.

Erosion of Igneous Rocks



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Spheroid weathering of granite. Spheroidal weathering is a form of chemical weathering. This occurs when concentric shells of decayed rock are successively loosened and separated from a block of rock by water penetrating the bounding joints or other fractures and attacking the block from all sides. It is similar to exfoliation.

Erosion of Igneous Rocks

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Cavernous weathering of a brecciated granitic rock.

River Erosion

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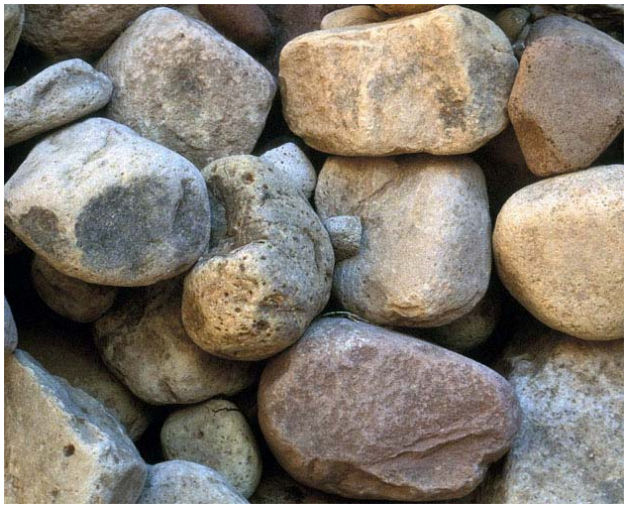
These boulders, temporarily resting in the bed of the Colorado River near Blacktail Canyon, a tributary of Arizona's Grand Canyon, represent many of the rock layers that make up the walls of the canyon.

River or Stream Erosion



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These rounded streambed cobbles have rolled and bounced along in Utah's Oak Canyon. The corners and edges are first to erode because of less support.

River Erosion

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Point-bar along the Colorado River.

Stream Erosion

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Badlands topography. Badlands refers to an intricately stream-dissected topography that develops on surfaces with little to no vegetation cover.

Glacial Erosion

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Glacial Erosion. U-shaped valley in the Wind River Range.

Glacial Erosion

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Cirque and headwall in Wheeler Park.