



Chemical Weathering

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The dissolving of rocks due to a chemical reaction

Carbonation

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The process by which acidic rainwater reacts with rocks made of calcium carbonate, e.g. limestone

Karst Landscape

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Areas of limestone that are exposed to the weather, e.g. the Burren

Grikes

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The large grooves in a limestone pavement that have been enlarged by process of carbonation





Clints

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The large slabs of limestone rock between the grikes on a limestone pavement

Swallow Hole

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When a river disappears underground after reaching an area of limestone rock

Caves

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When the passage of an underground river is enlarged, creating an underground chamber

Caverns

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Caves that have been enlarged by carbonation





Joins & Bedding Planes

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The vertical &
horizontal cracks
in limestone rock

Stalactites

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Hollow, icicle-
shaped deposits of
calcite that form on
the roof of a cave

Stalagmites

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Hollow, icicle-
shaped deposits of
calcite that form on
the floor of a cave

Pillars

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When stalactites and
stalagmites grow in
size and eventually
join up





Denudation

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The wearing down of the Earth's crust and by processes of weather and erosion

Mechanical Weathering

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The breaking down of rocks into smaller pieces by physical processes

Freeze-thaw action

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When water freezes in the cracks of rocks and expands

Scree

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The broken rock that gathers at the bottom of slopes and mountains

