Unit 5: SOIL AND WEATHERING Vocabulary

**Composition:** the combination of parts or elements that make up something

**Humus:** decayed organic matter in soil

**Soil Horizon:** layer of soil with properties that differ from the layer above and below it

**Soil profile:** soil horizons in a specific location; a cross section of soil layers that displays all soil horizons

**Weathering:** process by which natural forces break down rocks

**Physical weathering:** breaking up of rocks by physical forces (ice wedging, pressure release, plant root growth and abrasion)

**Chemical weathering**: breakdown of rocks by chemical reactions that change the rock’s makeup (dissolving and rusting)

**Erosion (n) / Erode (v):** process in which sediment is picked up and moved from one place to another