

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

**caverns** ..... underground caves formed by running water dissolving limestone over a period of time

**chemical weathering** ..... the change in mineral composition or chemical makeup of a rock by chemical means; also called "decomposition"

**clay** ..... a mineral found in large quantities in the soil; a common soil type found in Florida

**dunes** ..... hills of sand deposited by the wind

**erosion** ..... the movement of weathered rocks and soil from one place to another by wind, water, ice, or gravity

**glacier** ..... a large, moving mass of ice and snow

**gravel** ..... large pieces of rock and mineral in soil

**gravity** ..... the force of attraction between all objects in the universe; an agent of erosion

**humus** ..... the dark-colored material left in soil by the decaying of plants and animals

**loam** ..... type of soil made of sand, silt, and clay

# Vocabulary

- loess** ..... pieces of silt and clay deposited by wind
- mechanical weathering** ..... the breakdown of rocks into smaller particles by physical means
- organic** ..... material formed from the remains of plants and animals
- runoff** ..... water that flows over Earth's surface
- sand** ..... small particles of rock found in soil
- silt** ..... soil particles that are smaller than sand but larger than clay
- soil** ..... a combination of small pieces of rock and organic material combined with air and water
- topsoil** ..... the upper layer of soil that contains a lot of humus
- weathering** ..... the breaking down of rocks and other materials by chemical or physical means