

Lesson 4-1 Vocabulary

- **Weathering**- the natural process by which atmospheric and environmental agents, such as wind, rain, and temperature changes, disintegrate rock and decompose rocks.
- **Mechanical weathering**- the process by which rocks break down into smaller pieces by physical means.
- **Abrasion**- the grinding and wearing away of rock surfaces through the mechanical action of other rock or sand particles.
- **Chemical weathering**- the process by which rocks break down as a result of chemical reactions.
- **Oxidation**- a reaction that removes one or more electrons from a substance such that the substance's valence or oxidation state increases; in geology, the process by which an element combines with oxygen.
- **Hydrolysis**- a chemical reaction between water and another substance to form two or more new substances.
- **Carbonation**- the conversion of a compound into a carbonate.
- **Acid precipitation**- precipitation, such as rain, sleet, or snow, that contains a high concentration of acids, often because of the pollution of the atmosphere.