

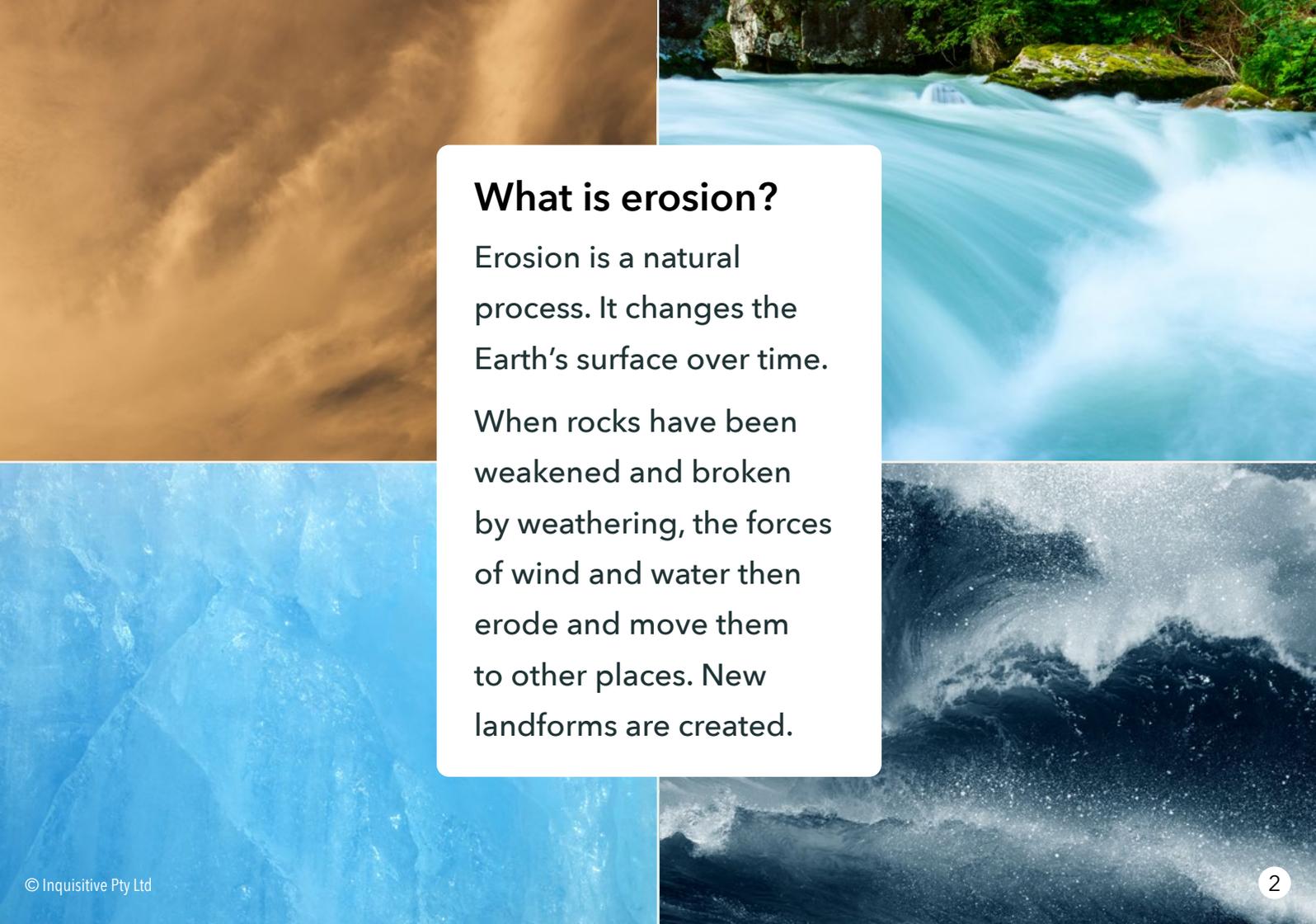
# EROSION



**inquisitive**

# Contents

What is erosion? .....	Page 2
Running water .....	Page 3
Moving ice .....	Page 5
Smashing waves .....	Page 7
Carving wind .....	Page 9
Sudden erosion .....	Page 11
Nature fights back .....	Page 12

The background of the slide is a collage of four nature images. The top-left image shows a brown, cloudy sky. The top-right image shows a waterfall cascading over rocks in a lush green forest. The bottom-left image shows a close-up of a blue, crystalline ice formation. The bottom-right image shows a dark ocean wave with white foam crashing.

## What is erosion?

Erosion is a natural process. It changes the Earth's surface over time.

When rocks have been weakened and broken by weathering, the forces of wind and water then erode and move them to other places. New landforms are created.

## Running water

Over thousands and millions of years, the force of running water and gravity moves rocks and sediment downwards, carving and cutting through the landscape.

As the water runs,  
sediment is carried  
down by the river  
and deposited to  
make new landforms.



River delta



Meandering river



Waterfall



Canyon

# Moving ice

In cold, mountainous areas, falling snow hardens into solid ice creating a glacier. Gravity slowly pulls these huge pieces of ice downwards. Glaciers melt as they reach warmer air.



As the glacier moves, it carries down rocks.



During very cold periods called ice ages, most of the Earth was covered in glaciers. The last ice age ended 12 000 years ago. As the ice melted, new landforms were created.



Fjord - an inlet filled by sea water



Ridge



Plateau - high flat land



U-shaped valley

## Smashing waves

A coastline is formed when the land meets the sea. Coasts are always changing. The push and pull of the tides and powerful waves erode the beaches and cliffs.



As the sea erodes the land,  
coastal landforms are created.



Sea cave



Sea arch



Sea stack

# Carving wind

Dry areas are eroded by strong winds.

Whipped up by the heat of the Sun, massive dust storms carry billions of grains of rock and sand.



The wind shapes and carves amazing desert landforms.



Wave rocks



Sand dunes



Mesas

# Sudden erosion

When there are storms and floods, erosion of the land can happen suddenly and dramatically.



Sometimes, nature does its best to fight back against erosion!

