WEATHERING & EROSION

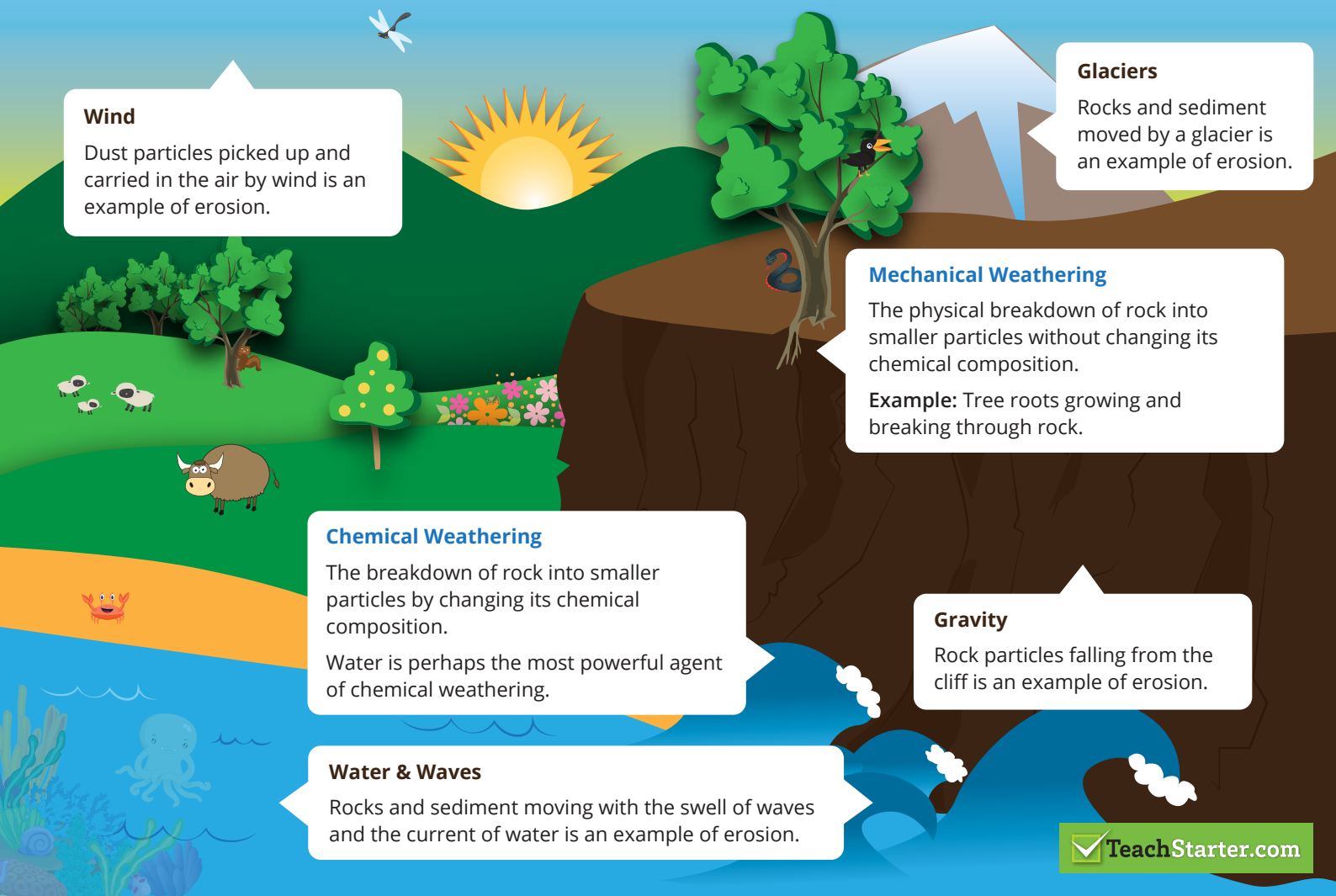
Weathering and erosion work together to change the environment.

WEATHERING

Weathering is the process where surface rocks are broken down, worn away or dissolved into smaller and smaller pieces through mechanical or chemical processes.

EROSION

Erosion is the process of moving these small, weathered rock particles to another location by the forces of wind, water, glaciers, waves or gravity.



Wind

Dust particles picked up and carried in the air by wind is an example of erosion.

Glaciers

Rocks and sediment moved by a glacier is an example of erosion.

Mechanical Weathering

The physical breakdown of rock into smaller particles without changing its chemical composition.

Example: Tree roots growing and breaking through rock.

Chemical Weathering

The breakdown of rock into smaller particles by changing its chemical composition.

Water is perhaps the most powerful agent of chemical weathering.

Gravity

Rock particles falling from the cliff is an example of erosion.

Water & Waves

Rocks and sediment moving with the swell of waves and the current of water is an example of erosion.