

Waterfalls come in many different shapes and sizes. Based on your reading, why do you think this is?

Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal lines.

Friday

- 1. Waterfalls are formed by both weathering and erosion.
- 2. Waterfalls usually form where two layers of soft rock meet.
- 3. Water forms a pool in the layer of hard rock.
- 4. Wind, water, and ice can all cause weathering and erosion.
- 5. An overhang collapses when rock below it is eroded.

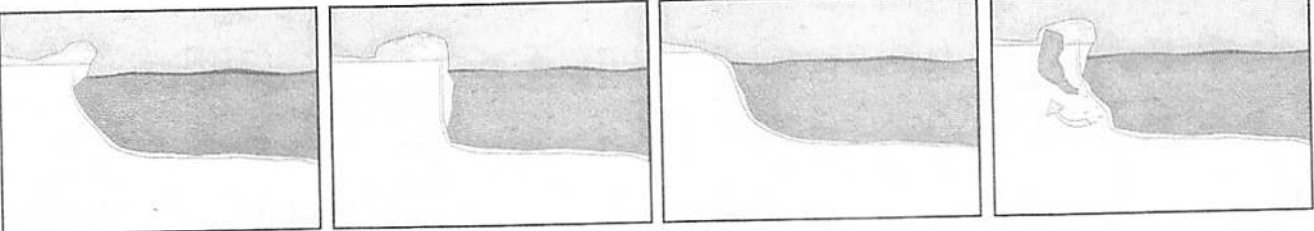
Handwriting practice lines consisting of five horizontal lines.

Read each sentence. Write true or false.

Thursday

The overhang collapses and falls into the pool. River water moves over soft rock where it meets a layer of hard rock, and erosion begins.

A steep cliff is created. Over time, the falling water creates a pool in the soft rock.



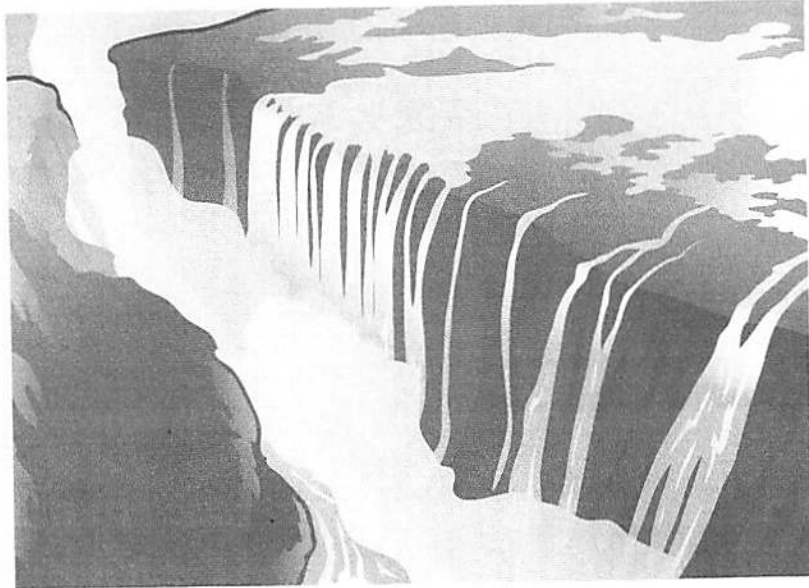
Number the pictures 1-4 to show the order in which a waterfall is created.

Wednesday

Read the passage. Underline important details and circle any words you don't know.

## Waterfalls—Powerful Forces of Weathering and Erosion

Waterfalls are some of the most beautiful and powerful landforms on Earth. They can be thousands of feet high! A **waterfall** is a place where a river or stream falls over a steep cliff. These awesome landforms happen when the forces of weathering and erosion work together.



**Weathering** occurs when rock or soil is worn away and broken into smaller pieces called **sediment**.

**Erosion** occurs when this sediment is carried away to a new place. Wind, water, and ice are the most common forces of weathering and erosion.

Why do weathering and erosion create waterfalls in some places and not others? It all depends on the rock layers below. Many waterfalls are formed where a layer of hard rock meets a layer of softer rock in Earth's crust. River water weathers and **erodes** the soft rock faster than the hard rock.

Over time, falling water creates a pool in the soft rock. Broken pieces of rock swirl around and cut away at the base of the pool. This leaves a ledge in the hard rock layer called an **overhang**. When the rock below it gets eroded, the overhang **collapses** and falls into the pool. This creates a steep cliff for the water to fall over. The farther the water falls, the more powerful it becomes! A waterfall can grow taller as the pool below it gets deeper and deeper.

## Tuesday

Fill in each blank with the letter for the correct word.

1. During \_\_\_\_\_, pieces of rock that have broken off are carried away.
2. Water carries \_\_\_\_\_ away to a new place.
3. The process of \_\_\_\_\_ helps create waterfalls by wearing away soft rock and breaking it into pieces.
4. A ledge of hard rock creates an \_\_\_\_\_ that can break off.

- A. weathering
- B. erosion
- C. sediment
- D. collapses
- E. overhang
- F. erodes