Pressures on the Physical Environment

National Parks
Areas of natural outstanding beauty that are protected by law e.g.. The Lake District National Park looked after by National Park Authority.
2 aims: to preserve the environment + to provide leisure opportunities for people.

PRESSURES
- Congested roads and parking problems
- Erosion of footpaths
- Overcrowding 'honeypot' areas
- Local shops now gift shops or cafes
- Employment is only seasonal (most jobs last only the summer)

RESPONDING TO PRESSURES
- Improving and repairing footpaths
- Directing people away from busy areas.
- Keeping some areas natural
- Restricting development to certain areas.
- Encouraging development of local crafts and skills
- Park and ride schemes

Weathering
Weathering is the breakdown of rocks. There are four different types.
1. Freeze-thaw - rocks being broken down by being repeatedly frozen then thawed.
2. Chemical weathering - e.g.. by acid rain.
3. Biological weathering - breakdown of rocks by plant roots or by animals.
4. Onion skin weathering - by repeatedly being warmed then cooled, the outside layer of a rock may break off.

Erosion
Rocks can be worn down and carried away (transported) by the action of water, ice or wind. There are 4 main processes of erosion:
- **Attrition** - rocks collide as they are transported and are worn into smoother, rounded stones.
- **Abrasion/corrasion** - materials rub against riverbanks or valley sides as it is transported, or is hurled at cliffs by the sea. This acts like sandpaper on the landscape, gradually wearing it away.
- **Corrosion** - some rocks, like limestone and chalk, are dissolved by natural acids and are carried away in suspension.
- **Hydraulic action** - river banks or cliffs can be worn away by the sheer force of water hitting them, or blasted apart as air is forced into cracks.

Glaciation
is the act of ice on the landscape.

Attractive landscapes
Coastlines, volcanic areas, rivers, lakes, moorland etc.. Can contain stunning scenery, plant or animal life

Coastal erosion (1)
There are four main processes of erosion along the coast:
- **Hydraulic action** - cliffs broken down by the waves forcing water or air in rock surfaces.
- **Corrasion** - waves hurling material against the cliff.
- **Attrition** - rock fragments rubbing against each other and being worn down.
- **Corrosion** - cliffs being dissolved by seawater.

LONGSHORE DRIFT
When waves approach a beach at an angle, the waves (swash) pushes material up the beach at the same angle. The backwash carries the material directly down the slope of the beach. In this way material moves along the coast in the process called longshore drift.

SPITS
These are formed where longshore drift moves large amounts of material along a coast. E.g.. Wessex coast near Bournemouth

Limestone scenery e.g.. Wookey Hole Caves
Rainwater and rivers react with the limestone. Calcium is then released and is either deposited on cave walls or grows slowly as stalactites (from the roof) and stalagmites (from the floor).
People visit places like Wookey Hole Caves to see this spectacular scenery. They bring money and jobs to the area.
Disadvantages - traffic congestion, jobs are seasonal.

Coastal erosion (2)
How are stacks formed?
1. Cliffs attacked by the sea.
2. Wave pressure erodes cracks into small caves
3. Caves erode back into the headland and join together to form an arch.
4. Continued erosion causes the roof of the arch to collapse resulting in a stack.

Example - Isle of Wight