

## Biological Weathering – Student Activity

Weathering is a **destructive** process



Which biological weathering agent caused the development of the path?

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What can be done to stop this damage?

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What will happen if this weathering is allowed to continue?

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Which biological agent is causing the break-up of the path?

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What can be done to stop this damage? \_\_\_\_\_

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What will happen if this weathering is allowed to continue?

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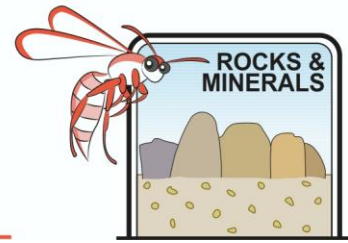
In this cave weathering is caused by bats.

How could bats cause the breakdown of rock?

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## Biological Weathering – Student Activity

Is biological weathering always damaging to rock? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any positive results from biological weathering? \_\_\_\_\_

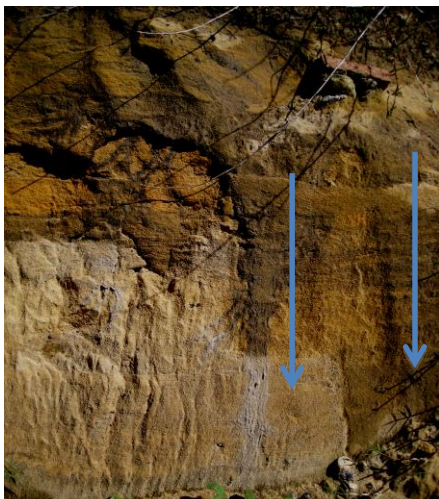
Over the 70,000 years since the end of the last Ice Age the number of humans on our planet has expanded from possibly 20,000 people to 7.089 billion in mid 2013 (US Census figure). Describe four ways human activities can cause changes to weathering patterns.

1.

2.

3.

4.



Biological weathering of limestone in coastal Tamala Limestone near Fremantle

This picture demonstrates how grass root systems and dead grass can break down solid limestone and turn it into soil. Humic acid is created from rotting vegetable matter. The acid reacts with the limestone.

The blue arrows lie to the right of major roots. Since living things are based on the element carbon, dead material appears darker. A lighter zone lies under the left root where humic acid has penetrated and reacted with the limestone. Once this has broken down it will be colonised by extensions of the root.