

The Poetry of Erosion

Geologic forms are beautiful.

Combine writing and science by asking your students to pick a picture from the Erosion Power Point Presentation, or from the brochure of a National Park in the Southwest (Bryce, Zion, Arches, Capital Reef) and write a poem about it.

Ask them to describe the colors, size, texture of the rock, and anything else that stands out in free verse. Ask them to consider what the rock might have been originally, how it might have changed, what it will end up being.

Sample:

Delicate Arch

by

Terry Catasús Jennings

Delicate now.
But once you were mighty.
Part of a ridge that stretched as far as I can see.
The sunset color of your stone framing the forests beyond
Your keystone supporting tons
But years have intervened
And rain
And wind
And sand
Have carried you away grain by grain
Forces that never stop
And now you are delicate indeed
And maybe once you won't be
I hope I don't live that long.

There is another erosion poem titled "Wind, Water, and Sand." Click on the button titled Wind, Water, and Sand. Students can feel free to download the Pictures in the Erosion Power Point or on the PDF and write their own poem. All these pictures were taken by the author and may be used for educational purposes with attribution.

Photographs from government sources such as National Park Brochures may be used for any purpose without attribution.

