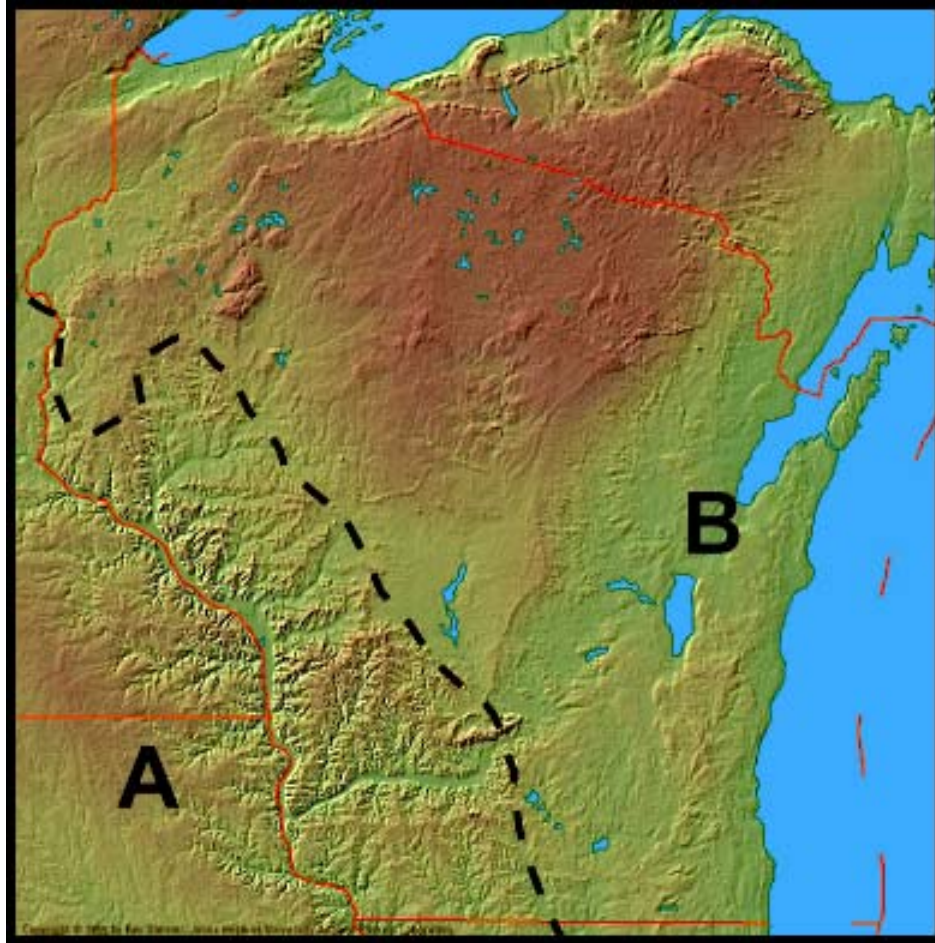


Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

Questions: Erosive Landforms in Wisconsin - Activity Extension to Investigation 4 (Weathering and Erosion Video)



Above, we can see a map of Wisconsin divided into two regions. Region A contains parts of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Prominent features in this region are the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Region B contains most of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Upper Michigan. The Great Lakes are prominent here.

(1) Trace the path of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers.

Notice that these rivers branch like the roots of a tree. Because it resembles tree roots, the pattern made by the draining of water is called ***dendritic***. Studying the shapes made by these landforms tells us that water has eroded the Mississippi Valley for a long time.

(2) Which region is most similar to the Space Shuttle view of the Grand Canyon? What erosional power (wind, water, ice) was responsible for the drainage networks?

(3) In Northern Wisconsin, you do not see extensive dendritic patterns. That is because these were destroyed by glaciers that flowed over Wisconsin. These glaciers spread like pancake batter over the state. Can you trace the outline of one of these "fingers of pancake batter" in the eastern part of Wisconsin?

(4) Darker colors on the relief map mean higher elevations. Which region in Wisconsin has higher elevation in general? Why do you think this might be?

(5) The rocks in Northern Wisconsin are predominantly granite, basalt, and rhyolite. What rock type are these? In southern Wisconsin, the rocks are mostly shale, sandstone, limestone, and dolomite. What rock type are these?

(6) From the resistance to erosion you see on the landform of Wisconsin map, which rock type of the two do you think is the hardest? Why? Does this agree with what you know about these rocks?