

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

A Changing Landscape **Colorado National Monument**

Background: The spectacular features of Colorado National Monument were created by erosion beginning millions of years ago and erosion continues to change the landscape today. Watch this [Bill Nye video on erosion](#) to help you understand how this process works and the changes in landscape as a result.

The monument includes interesting pull offs and short hikes that offer beautiful views to see stunning examples of erosion. Some you may want to consider pulling off for are Book Cliffs View, Balanced Rock, Coke Oven Overlook, Artists View, Cold Shivers View.

Pick up a map at the visitor center or [download one](#) to help guide your travels in the monument. Don't forget to [pick up a Jr. Ranger book](#) while you are there so you can learn more about the history of the park and the plants and wildlife.

Word Alert:

Erosion—the process of eroding by wind, water, and other natural forces.

Questions to Ask:

1. What features do you see that tell you these were created by erosion? (*cut marks, discoloration on the stone*).
2. What are some descriptions of shapes and colors in the stone? (*Shapes could include flat top, valleys, rounded sides, bumpy, layered. Colors could include oranges, pinks, grays, blacks*)
3. What materials would you need to paint a picture of this landscape? (*paper, colored pencils, crayons, markers, pencil*)

Activity: The spectacular features of Colorado National Monument were created by erosion beginning millions of years ago and erosion continues to change the landscape today. Choose one spot (pull off or hike) that you find captivating or interesting and sketch the landscape you see. Some spots you may want to consider pulling off for are Book Cliffs View, Balanced Rock, Coke Oven Overlook, Artists View, Cold Shivers View.

Location: _____

