

How are Waterfalls formed?



Waterfalls

Waterfalls often form in the upper stages of a river where it flows over different bands of rock. It erodes soft rock more quickly than hard rock and this may lead to the creation of a waterfall.

Formation of a waterfall:

- The soft rock erodes more quickly, **undercutting** the hard rock.
- The hard rock is left **overhanging** and because it isn't supported, it eventually collapses.
- The fallen rocks crash into the **plunge pool**. They swirl around, causing more erosion.
- Over time, this process is **repeated** and the waterfall moves upstream.
- A steep-sided **gorge** is formed as the waterfall retreats.

