

GLOSSARY

A

arête sharp, jagged ridge formed between cirques (282)

B

basal slip movement of a glacier caused by the melting of ice in contact with the ground (279)

C

cirque bowl-shaped depression produced by a valley glacier (282)

continental ice sheet mass of ice that covers large land areas (278)

crevasse large crack that forms on the surface of a glacier (280)

D

drumlin long, low, tear-shaped mound of till (285)

E

erratic large boulder transported and deposited by a glacier (284)

esker long, winding ridge of gravel and coarse sand deposited by a glacier (286)

F

firn grainy ice in a glacier that has been partially melted and refrozen (277)

G

glacial drift sediments deposited by a glacier (285)

glacier mass of moving ice (277)

ground moraine unsorted material left beneath a glacier when the ice melts (285)

H

hanging valley small abandoned glacial valley suspended on a mountain above the main glacial valley (283)

GLOSSARY

horn sharp, pyramid-like peak formed where several arêtes join (282)

I

ice age long period of climatic cooling during which ice sheets cover large areas of the Earth's surface (289)

internal plastic flow slow movement of a glacier in which ice crystals slip over each other (279)

K

kettle depression in a glacial outwash plain (286)

L

lateral moraine unsorted material deposited along the sides of a valley glacier (285)

M

medial moraine ridge of unsorted glacial material along the center of a valley glacier (285)

meltwater melted ice flowing from a glacier (285)

Milankovitch theory theory that small, regular changes in the Earth's orbit and in the tilt of the Earth's axis caused the ice ages (290)

O

outwash plain deposit of stratified drift in front of a glacier (286)

R

roche moutonnée rounded knob of rock produced by glacial erosion (283)

S

snowfield almost motionless mass of permanent snow and ice (277)

snowline elevation above which ice and snow remain throughout the year (277)

GLOSSARY

stratified drift glacial deposit that has been sorted and layered by the action of streams or meltwater (285)

● T

terminal moraine till deposited at the leading edge of a melting glacier (286)

till unsorted rock material deposited by a glacier (285)

● V

valley glacier long, narrow, wedge-shaped mass of ice that usually moves through a mountain valley (278)