

HOW ARE WATERFALLS FORMED?

Waterfalls usually form in the upper stages of a river. As the river flows over bands of different rock, the water erodes soft rock more quickly than **hard rock**.

This undercuts the hard rock and leaves it overhanging. Because it is no longer supported by the **soft rock**, it eventually collapses.

When the hard rock overhang collapses, it falls into the **plunge pool** at the bottom of the waterfall. As it breaks up and the fragments swirl around, the rock causes more erosion.

The process is repeated over time and moves the waterfall further and further upstream.

As the waterfall retreats, a steep-sided gorge is formed.

