



I am a ESOL teacher teaching 2nd grade in South Carolina. My class is learning about explanations. Generate a text in the genre family explain. The text needs to provide explanations about landforms: canyons. The text should be no more than 250 words and will serve as a mentor text for my students. Its language features associated with the genre family explain include: (WIDA ELD-SC.2-3.Explain.Expressive) relating verbs to state relationships or attributes (have, be, belong to); causal connectors to link events (because, so that, when); prepositional phrases to provide details about where, when, how; technical terminology (food chain, biome) to add precision. Generate this text bearing in mind these purposes: to explain a phenomenon that involves an element of causality, to explain how canyons are formed and to describe how the Earth's surface is constantly changing. Before launching the prompt, ask me questions about any additional information you may need to complete this task.

How Canyons Are Made

The Earth's surface **is** never the same **because** it is always changing. One of the most famous shapes on our planet **is** the **canyon**. A canyon **is** a deep, narrow valley with very steep walls made of solid rock. 

Canyons are formed **when** water flows **over the land** for a very long time. Most canyons **have** a river running **at the bottom**. As the river moves **through the landscape**, the water rubs **against the Earth**. It carries away small pieces of sand and stone. This process **is** called **erosion**.

[Image showing water erosion carving a canyon]

The moving water is powerful **so that** it can cut **through even the hardest layers** of rock. The river acts like a giant saw, carving deeper and deeper **into the ground**. Over millions of years, the rushing water changes the flat land into a giant gap. 

Canyons **belong to** a group of **landforms** that show us how the Earth's surface is constantly being reshaped. Even though the rock looks still, the river is always working to change the world **under our feet**.