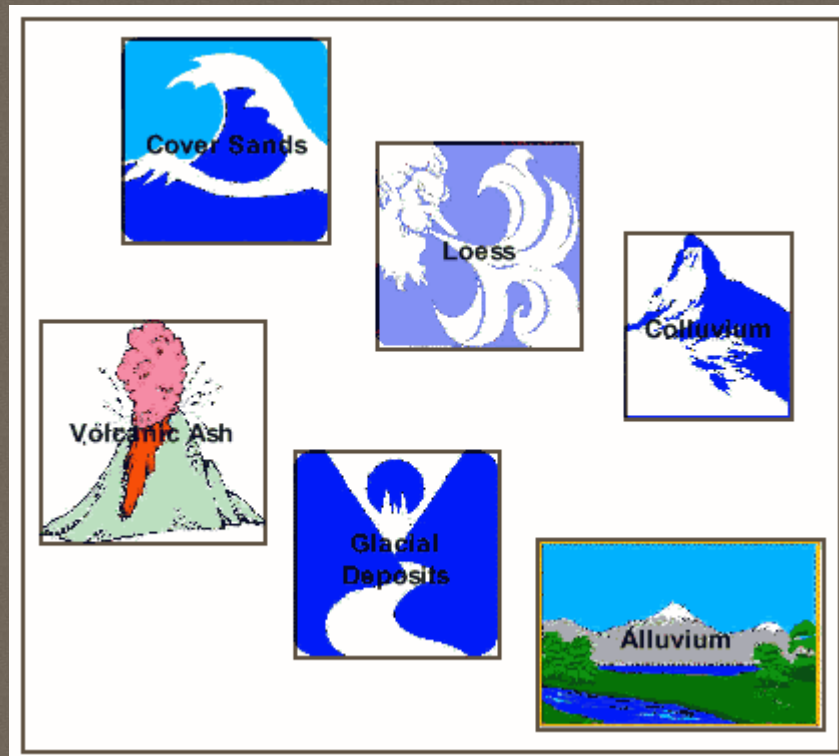


Resource Notes:- Recent Cover Deposits

The web site provides a diagram with further popup information on recent cover deposits.

The text is made available here for reading offline.



Cover Sands:

- most commonly deposited by water from erosion of sandstone. Wind may shift these cover sands to form dunes.

Loess:

- a wind-transported deposit consisting mainly of silt from floodplains of rivers whose source is a glacier. The silts produce fertile agricultural soils with excellent water-holding capacities that are also rich in plant nutrient-bearing minerals. Loess deposits occur in such places as Canterbury, Otago and Hawkes Bay.

Colluvium:

- is material deposited under the influence of gravity at the base of hills or mountains. Colluvium can be derived from a variety of sources such as rockslides or a lahar - these deposits are therefore very variable in composition.

Alluvium:

- forms soils rich in topsoil materials brought down from upland regions. Alluvial soils form in valleys from sediments deposited by rivers and streams. Centuries of erosion have created fertile floodplain areas in NZ. Alluvial soils are layered, with each layer representing the deposit of a flood. Usually sandy near river banks, alluvial soils can become clayey and even peaty in swampy areas.

Glacial Deposits:

- left by the glaciers that repeatedly advanced and retreated one million to 10,000 years ago, the deposits often have a covering of loess. are parent materials of soils in much of the in NZ. The mixture of stones, sand, silt, and clay carried along by glaciers was deposited in broad blankets and ridges called moraines. Lakes which once existed near the glaciers often became filled with rich silty and clayey soils to form good farmland.

Volcanic Ash:

- widespread from south Waikato to Taranaki. Although the mineralogy of volcanic ash is variable, most of it develops into good-quality soils.

And from the page text:

Recent cover deposits are geologically young sediments.

They include:

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