

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: LANDFORMS

Dunes are more than just huge piles of sand. What we see today is the result of thousands of years of deposition and erosion, and the process is still happening! Use the links provided to help you answer the following questions and discover more about this unique landscape.

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/glaciers.htm>

1. How many states were at least partially covered by the most recent glacier?

2. How long ago did the last of the glaciers melt away in this area?

3. What is a *moraine*?

4. What is responsible for forming the great headland bluffs in this area, such as Empire bluffs, Sleeping Bear bluffs, and Pyramid Point?

5. In what direction do the prevailing winds blow along the Lake Michigan shoreline?

6. What are the names of the four ice ages during which this area was covered by glaciers?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/sanddunes.htm>

8. What is a *perched dune*?

9. How large is the Sleeping Bear Plateau?

10. As you move inland from the beaches you encounter “_____dunes”, with pioneer vegetation that is adapted to the dry and windy conditions.

11. Further inland you will find “_____dunes” with more mature and stabilizing trees and shrubs.

12. What is responsible for trapping and holding sand in place?

13. What is a “skeletal forest”?

14. OPINION: Based on what you’ve learned in this activity, write a brief paragraph describing how LANDFORMS are protected and preserved by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.
