



Avananches are a natural marvel, a magnificent demonstration of nature's might. These dynamic and relentless forces of winter unleash their fury when triggered by earthquakes, animal movements, gunshots, snowmobilers, skiers, or explosives.



Calving glaciers are the grand finale in the world of glaciology. When a glacier's terminus crumbles, it releases magnificent ice sculptures into the ocean where they pose as a testament to Earth's ever-changing beauty.



Natural sandstone rock formations are created when heat, wind, rain, and erosion work together. They can carve some of the most breathtaking sculptures on the planet. The rock's unique characteristics are determined by environment, sand grain size, sorting, and composition.



Often you can hear a waterfall before you see it. That sound signifies a tremendous amount of power, and, in fact, humans can harness the energy of larger falls into hydroelectricity.



Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air in contact with and extending from a cloud to the surface of the earth. Twisters strike most frequently along Tornado Alley—a flat stretch of land extending from western Texas to North Dakota.



Limestone pinnacles majestically plane the sky in stunning natural formations, showcasing the Earth's geological artistry. These towering formations often result from the gradual deposition of marine sediments over millions of years.



Supercell thunderstorms are among nature's strongest storms and are capable of producing large hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes. Powerful, steady rotating updrafts of air feed these storms and set them apart in both duration and intensity from other types of thunderstorms.



As a geyser's groundwater boils, the resulting pressure dramatically forces a superheated column of steam and water through a vent in the Earth's surface. Geysers are rare—only about 1,000 exist worldwide, and nearly half of those are in Yellowstone National Park.



Haboobs are intense dust storms that form when winds from a dying thunderstorm push downward. In arid or semiarid areas, these winds can kick up dust and sand, quickly reducing visibility. Some haboobs are quite large, reaching thousands of feet high and up to 100 miles wide.



A moon halo forms when moonlight passes through high cirrus clouds. The ice crystals in the clouds are tiny pencil-shaped columns whose hexagonal surface refracts the light at a consistent degree angle to create a ring that is the same 22° diameter each time. That's why moon halos are sometimes called 22° halos.



The majority of waves found on Earth's oceans are wind waves. The wind transfers some of its energy to the water through friction between the air and water molecules. Waves are also caused by underwater earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or tsunamis.



Water erosion is a force of nature that is constantly at work. Wind, water, and time create intricate stacks that appear ready to topple over at any time. While erosion can be caused by any number of natural forces, water erosion is the most common.