

Glacial Dynamics

- **1. Ice sheets move away from their zones of accumulation and down slope under the pressure from their weight (called plastic flow).**
- **2. Ice sheets also move down slope by slippage (called basal slip) as the weight of the ice melts its lowest levels and acts as a lubricant.**
- **3. The forward edge of the ice sheet (ice front) acts as a “bulldozer,” scouring the land, plucking loose rocks out of the ground and slicing all vegetation in its way.**
- **4. All this material is mixed with the ice and moved forward and down slope with the ice mass.**
- **5. The furthest advance of the ice front is marked by the “terminal” moraine, a high ridge of glacial material.**
- **6. The “retreat” of a glacier is the melting of the ice front in place creating the illusion that the glacier is moving backward.**
- **7. As the ice melts in place, the material it picked up is exposed and dropped, creating numerous glacial features.**
- **8. A “recessional” moraine is a low ridge of glacial material marking the ice front’s advancement after a period of retreat.**