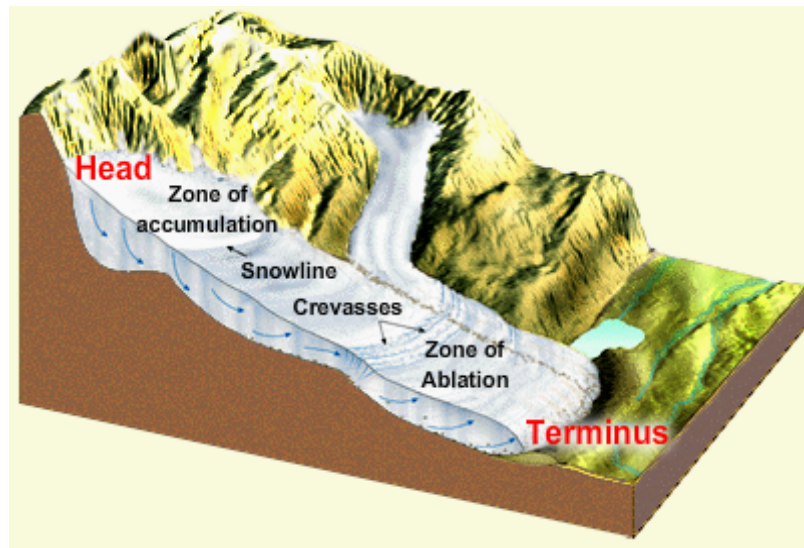


Parts of a Glacier



Part	Description
Head	The glacial head is the place where a glacier originates.
Zone of Accumulation	The zone of accumulation is where there is a net gain of ice. This is the upper part of a glacier and the part that receives the most snow. Most of a glacier's area is in the zone of accumulation.
Snowline	The snowline is the boundary between the zone of accumulation and the zone of ablation. It is sometimes called the equilibrium line. Above this line, snow accumulates; below it, there is a net loss of ice due to melting or ablation.
Crevasses	Crevasses are large cracks opened by the fracturing of upper ice layers. The ice cracks when the bottom layers of ice flow but the top part remains brittle. Crevasses may be thousands of meters long and as much as 30 meters deep.
Zone of ablation	The zone of ablation may be the bottom of a mountain, the sea, or any warmer environment. There is a net loss of ice, as ice leaves the system by melting, breaking, or evaporation.
Terminus	The terminus is where a glacier ends.