Pillars of Erosion: Earth Desert Rock Pillars and Pillars of Star Formation

In the left picture, prolonged wind erosion in deserts leaves behind columns of dense rock. In the right picture, winds from bright stars blow away their surroundings to reveal dense regions of gas from which stars are forming.

Texture of Rock Pillars in Desert on Earth

Desert Sand

Mixing Gas Layers in Pillars of Star Formation

Credit: NASA/CXC/SAO http://chandra.si.edu