

Exploring Erosion

Procedure

Experiment 1

1. Gather up to four types of dirt or soil. Soil may include dirt clods.
2. Place the various soil types in quartered sections of a tray. Soil can be placed dry, or you may want to add a little bit of water to build a small landform.
3. Draw a picture of your soil(s) or landform(s), and provide a written description including landform shape (if applicable), soil texture, soil color, presence of organic matter, and any other features you observe.
4. Use a spray bottle (or water bottle) to dribble small drops of water on each soil sample to represent a light rain. In comparison, pour a small amount of water from a measuring cup. Record your observations of erosion by water.
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the other soil types you have collected.
6. Leave the tray in a secure location outside during days there is no precipitation event. Observe the soil over a period of a few days, and record your daily observations as it relates to erosion by wind.

Experiment 2

1. Fill 2 of your clear cups (or clear measuring cups) to the halfway mark with water.
2. Collect two dirt clods of different shapes, sizes, and soil types.
3. Draw a picture of the dirt clods and write a description of each, including diameter, soil color, soil texture, presence of organic matter, and any other features you observe.
4. Drop one dirt clod in one of your cups of water, and record your observations at it relates to erosion by water on a piece of paper or in a journal.
5. Repeat step 4 with the other dirt clod and cup of water and record your observations.

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