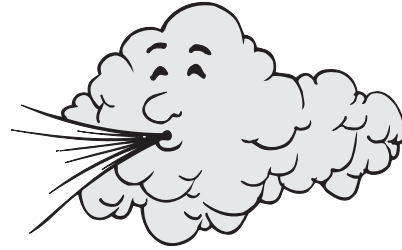


Big Lab

Post-Visit Activity Wind Erosion

In the Big Lab, you saw how water erosion can change a landscape. You also explored what types of objects, such as plants, can help stop erosion. In this activity you will explore the effects of wind erosion and use your knowledge to try and slow it down!



Materials (quantities for one group)

For Erosion Set-Up

- Box with top and one side removed
- Sand
- Other earthy materials that may include rocks, gravel, clay, mud, pebbles, small sticks, and water

For Recording Data

- Pencil/Pen
- Paper
- Stopwatch
- Ruler
- Stopwatch



Wind erosion helps to make many of the landforms we see everyday. What kind of landforms can you think of that are made up of sand or rock? As you do this activity, you might want to think about what things in nature are easily moved by the wind.

Try This

1. Make a small pile of sand in the bottom of your box.
2. Measure the height of the sand.
3. Blow lightly from the open end of the box for 30 seconds.
4. Record any changes in the sand. What kind of patterns do you see?
5. Blow for another 30 seconds and record those changes.
6. Create a new pile of sand at the same height as in Step 2, but add any materials you think may slow down wind erosion. Try to keep your pile from being blown away.
7. Repeat steps 2-5. Try to blow with the same strength.
8. Try it again with different materials.

Big Lab

Post-Visit Activity Wind Erosion

Things to Think About:

1. How long do you think it would take for you to move the entire pile of sand?

2. What materials protected the hill from the wind the best? Why do you think they worked the best?

3. If you were going to build a house on a hill, would you want a lot of trees and plants growing around your house? Why? What materials would you want the hill to be made out of?