



How is Land Changed by Water?

Background:

This activity will represent water erosion. This activity can be modified to show how wind changes the land.

Materials:

- Sand (very little, just about a film canister full)
- Water
- Eye droppers (if no eye dropper is available, a cup with holes on the bottom works)
- Plastic container/bin



Procedure:

1. Make a hypothesis! Have the students record what they think will happen to the sand (the “land” in this experiment) when water is poured on it.
2. Have the student dump the film canister of sand into the plastic container, like one is building a sand castle at the beach.
3. Fill the eye dropper with water and drop about 40 drops of water on the sand. Have the student observe what is happening. Is the sand moving?
4. Once done, have the student record their findings. Introduce the concept of *erosion*: the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, winds, waves, etc.

Next Generation Science Standards Used:

2-ESS1-1: Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly.