

/ Bringing Erosion + Weathering Into the Classroom

Are you ready to create your own erosion and weathering experiment?

Make sure you do this activity in a place where it is okay to make a mess, such as outside.

/ For this activity, you will need:

- A deep dish, tub or plastic container (ideally transparent)
- Landscape material (sand, dirt or soil)
- A paper cup
- Scissors
- Water in a separate cup

/ Instructions:

1. Fill the dish or tub half-way full with your landscape material.
2. The landscape you create must have a slope. Use your hands to build up the material on one side to create this slope.
3. **Ask a teacher or adult to help you with this step:** Take the paper cup and use the scissors to poke a hole in the bottom.
4. Hold the cup over the area that has the most landscape material (the top of the slope). Make sure the cup is the correct way up, with the bottom facing downwards.
5. Pour the water into the cup.
6. Watch how the water drips out the hole of your cup and travels through your landscape.

/ Questions to think about:

- Did the color of the water change?
- Does the appearance of your landscape stay the same or change?
- Does the water carry away dirt away from the original location and drop it off somewhere else?

/ Reflection:

How could you see erosion and weathering occurring in this activity?

What would happen if you changed the design of your landscape?

Experiment with some different designs (e.g. taller slope, more dirt/sand, compacted soil vs. loose soil) and record your observations after each time in your notebook.