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Changing the Shape of Land Activity for Kids

Watch Video

Water Erosion Model DIY

Duration: **15-20 min** Difficulty: **Medium** Cost: **$0 to $5**

Build a model to test ways to slow down erosion!

Material List

- 1 Stack of books
- 1 Watering can with water
- 2 Cake pans
- 2 Bread pans
- 1 Pack of soil
- 8 Plastic forks

Instructions

1. Fill two cake pans with an equal amount of soil and carefully pat it down a little.
2. Lean the cake pan on a pile of books and lean the other side in the bread pan.
3. In one of them, stick forks into the soil, this will act like trees.
4. Slowly pour water onto the soil on one side of the bread pan.
5. Watch it flow down into the cake pan.
6. Observe how much soil was eroded away.
7. You can test other ways to slow down or stop erosion using this model.

How It Works

Erosion is when tiny pieces of the Earth's surface are moved from one place to another. This is usually caused by moving water or wind. In our model we used flowing water to move soil. Plants are a great way to slow down or stop erosion and the forks we stuck into the soil acted like the roots of a plant to help hold the soil in place.

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