

Erosion is the process of land breaking down by rocks moving or being moved. After some kind of weathering has taken place, rocks may fall from their place on a mountain, or be moved along in a river getting smoother as it goes, or even be swept up in the wind. Sometimes, erosion is quick and observable, such as in a mudslide or earthquake. Often, it is slow and we don't even know it is occurring.

Directions: Create your own erosion using water. Fill a dish bucket with soil. Pack the soil in to create a landscape with a hill of one end. You can even place small plants with roots in the "land" to show how these affect erosion.

Pour water from the top of the hill and watch how it transforms the landscape. Add small gravel and sand, and observe how these are affected by the river you created. Remember that erosion of actual rock by water will take much more time than it does here.

Draw your landform and show how the water has eroded it. Has the addition of rooted plants affected the erosion? What did you observe? Any surprises?
