

# ScienceNews

## Activity Guide for Students: How Erosion Alters the Landscape

**Directions:** When wind and water move, they don't move alone — they take part of the land with them. As you observe the stream table demonstrations, take notes on the movement of water and sediment during each demonstration so you are prepared to answer the following questions.

### Stream table observations

1. What happened to the sediment as water flowed down the stream table?
2. What happened to the mountains as water flowed down the stream table?
3. What happened to the straight streambed as water flowed down the stream table?
4. The stream table demonstrates the process of erosion. What is erosion?
5. What changes do you think would increase erosion in the stream table? Why?
6. What changes do you think would decrease erosion in the stream table?
7. Describe the sediment used in the stream table. Why might we use this type of sediment in the stream table to demonstrate erosion?
8. How is the simulated erosion in the stream table different from how erosion actually occurs?

## **How erosion happens**

In your group, you will focus on one aspect of erosion and will make changes to your stream table, recording how the changes you make affect erosion. Set up your demonstration according to the instructions provided by your teacher.

Record your observations in the space below so you are prepared to share what your group has learned with your peers. After you have finished experimenting with your stream table and recording your observations, reset your stream table using the parameters that produced the most interesting results for a class wide demonstration.

As each group shares their demonstration, record what you learn in the space below.

Group 1: Elevation change

Group 2: Varying sediments

Group 3: Stream patterns

Group 4: Landforms

Group 5: Surfaces

Group 6: Weather

