



THE POWER OF PLANTS!

PART 1 - DIY EROSION EXPERIMENT



MATERIALS

- 2 aluminum bread pans or plastic containers
- Soil
- Plastic forks or toothpicks
- Playdough/modeling clay
- A large baking sheet to catch the water

INSTRUCTIONS

- Fill the bottom of both pans with playdough or clay.
- Place soil over the top so that it fills to the top of both the containers.
- In one dish, place 6 plastic forks or 20 toothpicks into the soil to represent trees.
- Place the bare soil pan at a slope set in the large container to catch the water coming off.
- Pour 1 cup of water over the bare soil pan and observe if there is any soil erosion.
- After making observations, pour out the water from the pan and wipe it down so the pan is clean.
- Place the small bread pan with the forks at a slope inside the large pan.
- Pour a cup of water over the pan with the forks (to represent trees!).
- Observe if there is any soil erosion. Is there more or less with the forks?

HOW DID THE FORKS IMPACT THE RATE OF EROSION? _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE TONGS ON THE FORKS REPRESENT? _____



1



2



3



4



5



6

CAN YOU THINK OF OTHER MATERIALS YOU COULD USE TO PREVENT SOIL EROSION?
TRY TESTING OUT SOME DIFFERENT MATERIALS TO TEST OUT WHAT WORKS BEST!

WHAT IS EROSION?



Erosion is when bits of rock and dirt are carried away. When soil is bare it can easily erode. Plant roots help hold soil together so that it doesn't wash away. If too much soil washes into rivers and lakes it can harm the fish and wildlife. Plus, it's no fun to swim in mucky water!