

As rainwater flows, it gathers speed and mixes with soil and rocks to erode them. Create a mini-rainstorm with this experiment and see how soil erodes.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two 9x12 inch (23x30 cm) disposable aluminum casserole pans
- Dirt (soil from the ground, not potting soil)
- Three thick books
- Sharp-pointed scissors
- Watering can with sprinkler-style spout

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Have an adult poke eight small holes on the end of one pan with the scissors.
2. Fill the pan with dirt so it is about 2 inches (5 cm) deep. Smooth dirt evenly on the surface.
3. Prop up the pan with the dirt with two of the books. On the side with the holes, place the other aluminum pan below to catch the water and dirt.
4. Fill the watering can with water. Pour the water quickly and slowly. What happens to the dirt? If you wanted to prevent the soil from eroding, what could you do to slow or stop it?
5. Try adding one book to make a steeper slope. Does the dirt erode more or less? What does the water flowing through the holes look like?

TRY THIS!

MINI-RAINSTORM EROSION

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