

Slowing the Effects of Rain

Materials Needed

- large pan (like an aluminum baking pan)
- watering can or paper cup with holes at the bottom
- grass growing in soil or sand and soil

Procedure:

1. Put a layer of sand and soil or soil in the bottom of a large pan.
2. A few days before doing the erosion investigation, plant some grass seeds in half the pan of soil or find a place where grass is growing on a slope with bare patches.
3. Sketch what you see.
4. Use your watering can or cup to “rain” on the grass and on the bare soil.
5. Describe in a second sketch or write a paragraph about what happened.
6. When did the water flow more quickly? Was any of the soil washed away?
7. How can you prevent soil loss on a bare patch in your home yard or school yard?
8. How does this activity help you understand the impact of vegetation on a hillside?