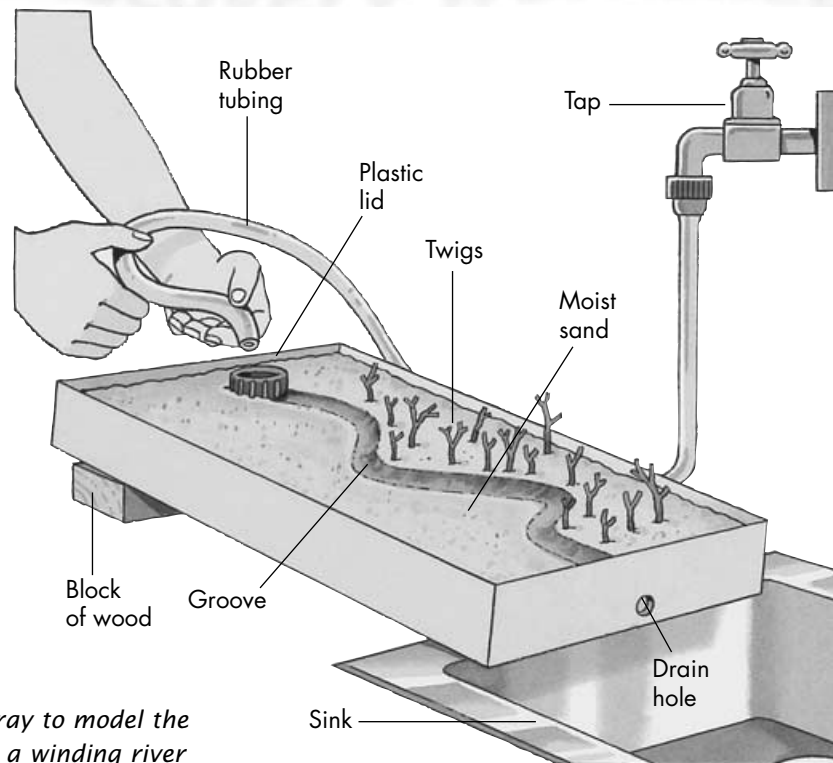


Discovery Worksheets

Soil erosion experiment

- Pack slightly damp sand into the tray so that it is fairly level.
- Use a small block of wood to raise one end of the tray. Place the other end of the tray on the edge of a sink or over an empty bucket.
- With one finger, make a slightly winding groove in the sand as shown in the diagram below.



Using a stream tray to model the erosion of soil by a winding river

- Plant 'trees' along one edge of your model river using twigs, matches or cotton buds.
 - Place the plastic lid in the sand at the top of the groove and aim the rubber tubing from the tap over it.
 - Turn on the tap so that water flows slowly but steadily into the plastic lid, overflowing into the groove.
1. Describe what happens as the water flows down your model river. Take notice of the difference between the two sides of the river.
 2. Is there any particular part of the river where erosion is more apparent? Which part?
 3. Where is the eroded sand deposited?
 4. The main aim of this experiment is to examine the effect of plants on the amount of erosion. State your conclusion.



stream tray or other metal or wooden tray;
sand; wooden block;
rubber tubing to fit a water tap;
small plastic lid (from an orange juice container);
twigs, matches or cotton buds to act as trees