

Science

3.1 Erosion: The Great Race



Water, wind, or glacial—which type of erosion causes the biggest changes? To find out, set up three identical pans with firmly packed dirt as shown. Once a day for three days, when students are out of the room, perform the following actions:

- Pan A—spray the dirt with five squirts of water
- Pan B—slide a piece of ice down the dirt pile five times
- Pan C—use a straw to blow across the soil five times.

When the class returns each day, have students record their observations and predict which type of erosion is causing the most damage. At the end of the third day, have students make their final observations and conclusions. (Results may vary due to soil type and room temperature.) Then reveal the type of erosion demonstrated in each pan (A—water, B—glacial, C—wind).

Written assessment: Journal on the daily process of erosion.