

Stream Table Lab

Purpose: To observe the ability of a stream to erode, transport, and deposit materials.

Materials: stream table, sand, rocks or pebbles, water, Science notebook

Observations:

1. What did the sand represent in the stream table?
2. What did the running water represent?
3. What could the pool of water at the bottom of the stream table have represented?
4. What happened to some of the sand as the water flowed over it?
5. What two particle sizes were carried the farthest by the running water?
6. Which two particle sizes made the water look “muddy”?
7. Did the sand make it all the way into the deepest part of the pool of water at the bottom of the stream table?
8. What landform is created when a river flows into a calm body of water?
9. When the stream was straight, what happened to the width of the “valley” over time?
10. When a river bends and twists, what name do we give it?
11. Were you able to see where erosion was occurring in the meandering stream? Where?
12. Were you able to see where deposition was occurring? Where?
13. Make a sketch of the meandering stream and label areas of erosion and deposition.
(The rectangle below represents the plastic stream table.)



14. Does the stream flow straighter when the gradient is steep or gentle?
15. How did we adjust the GRADIENT of the stream?
16. How did we adjust the DISCHARGE of the stream?