

Erosion by Water – Student Activity

Water

Like wind, the greatest erosive energy of a current of water is at its base. This is why water often undercuts structures during floods. The wave cut notches on this cliff near Rockingham are evidence of changing sea levels in recent post-glacial (Ice Age) times.



Higher sea level in past

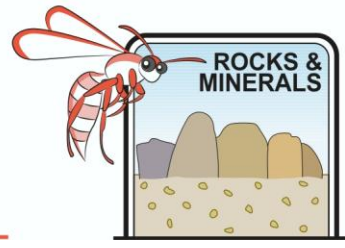
Present wave cut notch

Vegetation and the erosive power of water - Activity

Materials per student or group

- Access to a sand pit
- Empty ice cream or large yoghurt containers
- Pieces of vegetation (twigs, flowers, leaves, grass, weeds and flowers).
- A bucket half filled with water

1. Decide on a “shoreline”.
2. Make two sand castles
3. Vegetate the garden of one.
4. When directed by your teacher sluice the two castles with the half bucket of water
5. Compare your results with those of other groups



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When you collect scientific data, what criteria are necessary? Data has to be:

O _____

M _____

R _____

Has only variable been used? _____

What is that variable? _____

Is this a "FAIR TEST"? _____

Examine the effect/s vegetation has on erosion in your experiment. What conclusion can you draw from your results?

Compare your results with those of other students. What conclusion can you draw from this experiment?

As a result of what you have observed, what advice would you give to a person living by the seaside when sea level is rising?

