



## The Effect of Drought on Landscape – Student Activity

**Aim:** To demonstrate the effect of drought on a landscape.

### Materials

- Three prepared plant pots of the same size.
  - One filled with moist potting mix and sprouted alfalfa (or grass seed).
  - One filled with moist potting mix only.
  - One filled with dry soil or potting mix.
- A drinking straw

### Method

1. Place each plant pot at the end of a sheet of A4 paper or newspaper.
2. Use the straw to blow strongly at the surface of the plant pot modelling the effect of a strong wind.
3. Compare the differing amounts of soil blown away by the “wind”.

### Results

What happened when the “wind” blew on the pots? \_\_\_\_\_

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How could we produce scientifically measurable results? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Conclusion

Can drought with wind change the landscape of Australia? \_\_\_\_\_

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***Something to think about: Every day the equivalent of five football pitches of topsoil blows away from our wheat belt and is “lost” at sea.***