



The Effect of Flood on Landscape – Teacher Notes

Aim: To demonstrate the effect of flood on landscape.

Materials

- 1 large transparent jar
- Mix of potting mix, sand and rock
- Water
- Basin or bucket

Layer of humus or topsoil floats to surface

Method

1. Half fill jar with rock and soil mix.
2. Add water until 2/3 full.
3. Shake until completely mixed to copy flood turbulence.
4. Allow to settle for 1 minutes then pour out the water into a basin or bucket.
5. Observe the liquid in the bucket.



Results

What was washed from the soil mix when the floodwaters had passed through? **The fine nutrient rich topsoil.**

How could you measure this loss? **By removing the top layer (humus/topsoil) drying it and then weighing it. Or carefully pouring off the water and topsoil, allowing the jar to dry out and measuring the decrease in volume (via pre-marked line).**

Conclusion

Can floods change the landscape of Australia? **Yes. Our topsoil is removed.**

The effects of flood on our landscape

- Loss of plants and animals.
- Topsoil washed downhill and downstream to smother plants or be “lost” at sea.

Vocabulary Drought, desertification, salinity, floods, soil degradation