

The Effect of Flood on Landscape – Teacher Notes

Aim: To demonstrate the effect of flood on landscape.

Materials

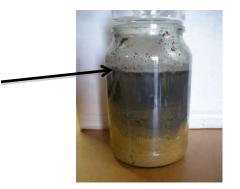
- 1 large transparent jar
- Mix of potting mix, sand and rock
- Water

• 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