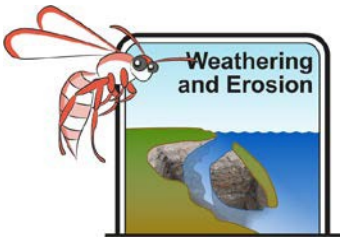


Smaller & Rounder – Student Activity

As material is moved along by wind or by water, the clasts become smaller and rounder because of collisions with each other and the surface along which they are moving.

Student Activity

Materials

- Sugar cubes
- A piece of old newspaper
- A large jar/ container with a lid
- Groups of energetic students

Method

1. Collect sugar cubes.
2. Lay out the newspaper.
3. Set a few cubes aside as the "Control Group" against which any change is measured.
4. Place the other cubes into the container. Ideally, they should only fill about one quarter of the space.
5. Shake the container for two minutes. Tip the contents of the container out onto the newspaper. Draw the changes in the "Middle" column of the table.
6. Return the contents to the container. Shake the container for another two minutes. Tip the contents back onto the paper. Draw the changes in the "End" column of the table.

Observations

Describe the changes to the cubes after they were shaken for 4 minutes (at the end).

_____

Was this a "Fair Test"? Explain your answer. _____

_____

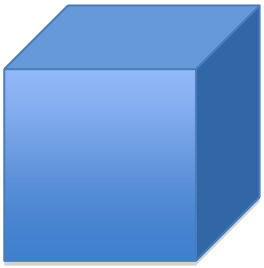
_____

How could you make this test more fair? _____

_____

Smaller & Rounder – Student Activity

Results

Beginning	Middle	End
		

Discussion

This activity is a model to find the effect of tumbling rocks along a river. It takes most small rocks hundreds of years to tumble their way from the top of a river all the way to the mouth (to sea). What do you think would happen to a jagged (or angular) rock during its journey from the top of the river to sea?

_____

Use your knowledge

The sediments (broken bits of rock) on the left were found along a creek bed in the Hamersley Ranges. The large ones are 5cm long.
Do you think they had travelled (been eroded) for a long distance from their source? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____