

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIFTH GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Erosion

**Theme:** Earth/Space Science

**Unit Number:** X      **Unit Title:** Earth's Surface Features

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):**

S5E1b- Students will identify the destructive process of erosion

S5CS1-Students ask questions and write observations.

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Erosion, weathering, constructive and destructive processes

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** This lesson is focused on teaching students about erosion and how it effects Earth's surface.

**Details:** This is a two part lesson. The first part of the lesson allows the students to create a delta that undergoes erosion. Outside, you place students into groups, and give them directions to mold clay into a sloping valley in a paint pan with their hands. They would then put sand at the top of the valley. They take a cup of water and pour water over the sand. The sand will begin to wash to the bottom of the pan along with the water. There will be a trail of where the sand has moved. From here, you can explain to the students the way that erosion works and a few examples that are known to erode. Asking them if they know any examples of erosion is good question. The Grand Canyon is a popular example. The second part of the lesson involves putting new knowledge about erosion into a new context. Get the students to fold a piece of paper into fourths. Their job is to draw an example of erosion in each quarter from what they see. Take the students around the school and stop in places where there have been changes to the natural landscape, such as eroded dirt around the sidewalk or places where a sink hole has caused concrete to break. Their job is to sketch what they see and write a sentence of how they could prevent the erosion.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

paint pans (# of groups), sand, modeling clay, cups (# of groups), paper, water

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

It can be difficult to keep students on track when observing erosion outside. Keeping them in groups may be a good idea, to avoid less chaos. They can discuss with their group different ways to prevent erosion. The students could also write what would happen if erosion were to become worse. Children could have severe allergies. Normal cautions should be taken for going outside and walking around.

**Sources/References:**

- 1) [http://www.geography4kids.com/files/land\\_erosion.html](http://www.geography4kids.com/files/land_erosion.html)
- 2)
- 3)