

RESCUE A MILLION LESSON HELPS

PLANTS & TREES ROOTS HELP KEEP SOIL FROM ERODING EXPERIMENT

Key Words

roots
soil
erosion

Materials

1. 2 disposable baking pans (roaster size)
2. topsoil
3. piece of sod with several inches of soil underneath OR a potted plant
4. 2 wooden blocks
5. 2 large, empty cans
Have an adult punch holes in the bottoms to create rainmakers.
(coffee can, #10 can, or similar size will work)
6. 2 pitchers
7. water

Soil Erosion Experiment Method

1. Place soil in one end of a baking pan. Place sod in one end of the second baking pan. (If using a potted plant, remove the plant with as much soil intact as possible from the pot)
2. Raise the end of the baking pan with the sod/soil in it by placing it on a wooden block so that the pans are sloped.
3. Have students draw or write their predictions on how rain might affect the soil that is in each pan.
4. Use rainmakers made from large, empty cans.
Hold the rainmakers over the sod/soil in each pan.
5. Have partners empty equal amounts of water into the rainmakers.
Observe and Record your observations.
6. Compare your observations with your predictions.
7. Infer how roots keep soil from washing away during a rainstorm.
8. Discuss how Rescue A Million's work in planting Empress trees around the world may help in protecting soil and why this is important.