

River

Unit 3 Erosion

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To introduce children to river erosion and show that erosion produces sediment which is carried away by the river.



1.1. Go to River>>Multimedia>>Section 3.4

“Do you know what a pothole is? Let’s look at this video (3.4.1 and then 3.4.2) to start our exploration. But first I want us all to see what this activity is...”

- ▶ Open the video activity. Tell children this is what they should do (shouting required). This is a fun, competitive, observational exercise from the Lake District.

Pothole shouting video activity.

1.2. Go to Textbook pages 10-11

“What features tell us that rivers erode?”

- ▶ Relate pothole videos to the diagrams and whitewater?
- ▶ Try to identify different grades of material.

1.3. Go to Textbook pages 12-13

“What’s the connection between pages 10-11 and pages 12-13?”

- ▶ Children should relate erosion to the production of sediment (which will form floodplains and deltas downstream).
- ▶ Flip the pages back and forth.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. TG photocopiable pages 56 and 57

- ▶ Print out the photocopiable and ask children if they can think of ways of making an experiment to show this in action.
- ▶ The best way is to have a piece of soft sandstone and a piece of granite. Rubbing them together will release sand grains. Alternatively use a piece of brick and any hard stone.



You are recreating the experiment shown on page 11 of the textbook (goggles required).

2b. Literacy activity

- ▶ The Literacy Topic 7, Crossing the River Platte, describes how the material in the water stripped away the trousers of the people even though they were in the water for just a short while.

Cross-curricular with science materials 3C/3D. There are more experiments in these books.

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Ask children to experiment with different materials to see how rubbing can release particles. Try to provide them with pieces of chalk, for example.