Erosion & Control

Overview and Objective

We're going to learn about erosion and the need for erosion control!

"Erosion control is the practice of preventing or controlling wind or water erosion in agriculture, land development, coastal areas, river banks and construction. Effective erosion controls are important techniques in preventing water pollution, soil loss, wildlife habitat loss and human property loss."
Source: Wikipedia.org/erosion_control

What you will need:

- Three flat sided juice containers (so each will lay flat on a countertop when on their side)
- Soil
- Mulch
- Sod or grass grown from seed
- Containers to collect water overflow
- A pitcher
- A knife (please ask an adult to do this!)
- Safety goggles

Procedure:

Set up three containers of soil to test the impact that vegetation or other physical barriers has on protection of the land.
If you're planning this project for a science fair, plant seed and give it 3-4 weeks to really give the roots an opportunity to grow into your soil. You can also lay sod. Again, the more time you give this (1-2 weeks), it will provide a better result for your experiment. From the underside of the container, you should be able to see the roots wrap around and hold that soil in place.

1. Collect three juice containers. Opt for containers that have flat sides that will lay on a countertop without tipping.
2. Have an adult cut off the top of each container above the pour spout.
3. Place each container on its side and fill with soil just below the spout.
4. The first container, you will leave just the bare soil.
5. Add mulch to the second container.
6. Your third container will contain the grass/sod you've grown.
7. Put a box (we covered a rubber tote) on the counter and lay your three soil filled containers on top.
8. Put three containers or catch basins below to capture the run off.
9. Using your pitcher, pour water evenly across each of your containers of soil.
10. Document your results!

Share your experiment results with us!
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