



Name: _____

Class: _____

How the Rivers Flow Outdoor Science Experiment

Step 1

What you need

- A pile of rocks, dirt, sand and mud
- A large outdoor area where the 'rivers' can flow and deposit mud
- Plenty of water
- A watering can
- Camera

Step 2

Make a small mountain out of the pile of rocks, dirt, sand and mud. Place the rocks in random spots on the pile. Draw your pile in the space below.

Step 3

Look at your pile. Draw where you think the rivers may form.

Step 4

Use a full watering can to pour 'rain' or water over the top of the mountain.

Step 5

Observe the path the river takes. Draw this below.

Step 6

Why do you think the river took this course?

Step 7

What do you think will happen if it continually rains?

Step 8

Discuss with your group:

- How would the results be different if you changed the mix of materials in your mountain?
- What impact would vegetation have made to the experiment?
- Would you get different results by using different watering cans or pouring from a different angle?
- Think about the three questions above—can you relate your answers to what you know about the real rivers you have studied?