

What size objects could a stream move?

Rocks broken down by the weathering process can be moved to other areas by the forces of wind and water. This is known as **erosion**.

Your teacher will demonstrate how to set up a river or stream model. Predict what will happen when a stream of water is passed over a mound of loose rock fragments.

Here is a list of some of the things you should try to observe during the demonstration:

The different sizes and masses of the rock particles

- The slope of the stream trough (the slope will be changed in the investigation)
- The amount of water flowing (this will be changed also)
- How far the different particles are carried by the water

The soil mixture contains most of these different sized particles:

- Fine powdered clay
- Fine beach sand
- Coarse river sand
- Small gravel pebbles
- Metal dust (blue metal)
- Road making blue metal
- Coarse stone



QUESTIONS:

1. How does the slope of the stream affect the sort of rock particles it can carry?
2. How does the amount or speed of the water affect the sort of rock particles the stream can carry?
3. How does the size of the particles affect how they can be carried by a stream?

Discuss how you would investigate each of these questions more carefully. You will need to make a careful record of all your observations. It will be necessary to do a number of experimental trials.