



Observing the Effects of Plants on Erosion

Name: _____ Date: _____

Investigative Question: What is the effect of plants on soil erosion and runoff?

Model	Draw water sample contents	What does the soil in the tub look like AFTER? <small>Sketch both a tub with plants and one with just soil.</small>	Amount of Soil Moved (include unit of measure)
Plants on slope		 	G1: _____ G2: _____ G3: _____
NO Plants on slope		 	G4: _____ G5: _____ G6: _____ G7: _____ G8: _____

Based on the data what can you conclude about the effect of the plants on the amount of erosion that occurred?

Write your conclusion: *Include evidence from your data to support your claim.*

Explain your reasoning. *Why did we get the results that we did? How do plants affect soil erosion?* Draw and write to share your thinking. Use zoom-ins on your drawing to include ideas about plant roots, spaces between soil particles (pore space), and size of soil particles.

Helpful words
erosion runoff
gravity particle size
pore space slope
speed (fast/slow) absorb
groundwater

Helpful sentence stems (optional):

- *We observed that on the covered slope...*
- *I think this happened because...*
- *The slope with/without plants absorbed the most/least water because...*
