

Name: _____

Date: _____

Site Assessment

What does erosion look like? How do we know erosion has happened? Why is this information important to know? Complete this activity to find evidence of erosion and sedimentation.

Do ... the activity

1. Take five minutes to answer the following questions: What are some visible signs of soil erosion? What factors contribute to soil erosion? What is the difference between a rill and a gully? Can you think of a way to prevent rills and gullies from forming?
2. Walk around the school campus/community to identify visible spots of erosion or risks that increase the potential for erosion.
3. Take a stroll around the school grounds/outside space. Work in your groups to identify soil erosion sites and to document your findings through descriptive notes, photographs, and video. Your instructor may pause at certain points to highlight features to facilitate discussion.
4. For each piece of evidence found in the table to the right, mark the degree to which the presence of erosion or sedimentation is observed and any notes you might have.
5. Track the flow of water. Find and follow storm drains to a nearby waterway. Is this water treated? List pollutants that can be carried to these waterways.



Site Assessment Observation Table

	Extent of erosion or sedimentation		
	Yes	Slightly	No
Sedimentation			
Rills/Gullies			
Impervious surfaces			
Storm drains			
Soil structure			
Vegetation			
Water pathways			

6. At different points during the site assessment, collect soil samples. Try to collect a diversity of soils to use in Lesson 3 to determine soil texture, structure and chemical properties. Also collect soil for Lesson 4, which requires at least five, 5 gallon buckets of soil (Each group may be responsible for collecting one, 5 gallon bucket each).

Talking it Over: Site Assessment

Share ... what you did

What visible signs of erosion did you see? Describe what the signs looked like.

What was the most interesting part(s) of the site assessment?

Reflect ...on the results

Based on your experience, how do you think the erosion or sedimentation happened?

Based on your experience, what types of communication did you use as a group to share your observations?

Generalize ...to your community

Based on your experience, have you observed soil erosion in your own neighborhood or community? Explain.

Why do you think this experience was important?

Where can you go to find more information you may need to understand erosion?

Apply ...to your community

Based on the knowledge you have gained from this experience, how do you think we should best manage erosion and sedimentation?

Based on your knowledge developed from working as a team, how could you apply these new skills at home?