Key Question

What causes the sand and/or snow to form drifts?

Learning Goals

Students will:

• explore the effects of wind as an agent of erosion in the picking up of sand and snow, and

• note how sand and snow are deposited when they encounter obstacles.
SAND DUNES and SNOW DRIFTS

Illustrate your scene BEFORE the “wind” blows.

Now rearrange your obstacles.

Illustrate your scene AFTER the “wind” blows.

In your journal, record at least three observations you made about wind erosion.
Connecting Learning

1. What is erosion? How did this lesson model erosion?

2. What did you notice about the effects of the wind on the windward side (the front side) of the obstacles? Were these effects seen with all obstacles? Explain.

3. What happened in areas directly behind the obstacles? Why?

4. What happened in areas where an obstacle was downwind of another obstacle? Give reasons why you think this happened.

5. Can you think of any instances in which you would want a drift to form in a certain area? If so, explain that instance and what you would need to do to accomplish this.
6. Road departments are often faced with sand/snow drifts that hinder traffic from moving. What suggestions would you give them for preventing this from happening?

7. What would happen if the wind blew from a different direction?

8. Explain in your own words any new things you learned in this investigation.

9. What are you wondering now?