Outdoor lesson

primary

Water erosion

Testing the impact of dripping water on different materials

Great for...

- **Geography** water and its effects
- **Science** properties of materials

Activity

1 The aim of the experiment is to see the impact of water on different materials, such as sand, different types of rock and ice. Find a space in your grounds where you can set up three or four water containers that drip down on to different materials – a pile of sand, a piece of sand-stone or brick, a piece of concrete or other hard material and a block of ice.

2 At different points during the day visit the experiment to see what has happened. Has the water left a mark on the surfaces? What would happen if you left these for a long time?

3 If it is possible leave the material in place over time, collecting rain in the containers and allowing it to hit the surface of the material in one spot, continuously, over a period of time.

4 Get the children to record the impact of the water over time.

What you need

- **A pile of sand**
- **At least two different types of rock** (or similar items)
- **A block of ice**
- **Water containers** that hold water but allow it to drip on to the materials

Preparation

- Look at different types of erosion, and how water is involved in different ways. This could include researching how water erodes icebergs.

Less challenging

- The children can record their findings using cameras and then create a pictorial story of the experiment to illustrate what happened.

More challenging

- Get the children to predict the results of the experiment, test their hypothesis and draw conclusions at the end.
- Get the children to design the experiments themselves.

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity