

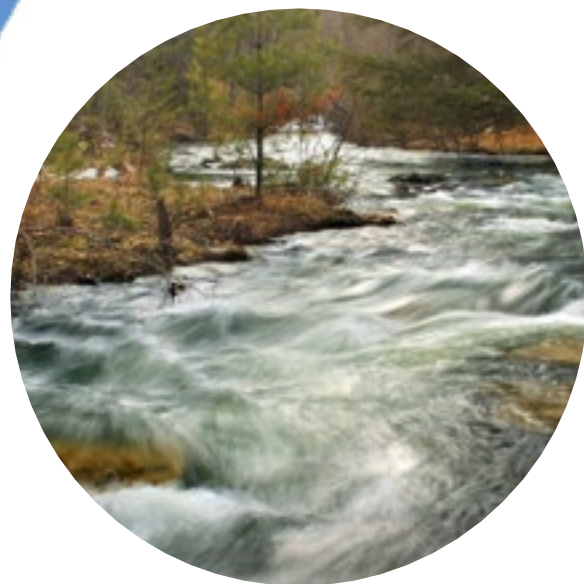


HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS

RIVER MEANDER

Rivers that flow downstream rarely do so in a straight line. They will meander through the countryside continually developing new shapes and a new course.

Sometimes these courses are change so much they create separate features, like Oxbow Lakes. Depending on the flow rate of the river, how fast it flows, a rivers course can hardly change, or change dramatically.



The Experiment

What you'll need: Large Plastic Tray, Jug of Water, Sand or Silt, a Protractor, a Ruler, an Outside Space

- 1 Fill your large plastic tray so that it is fully covered about one half deep with sand or silt;
- 2 Carve a meandering river into your sand/silt from the top of the tray, to the bottom;
- 3 Tilt your tray to around 10 degrees and prop it up with something of the right size;
- 4 Pour the water slowly in to the river, right at the top, ensuring the run off is either being collected or you are outside;
- 5 Slowly pour all the water through to see what a meandering river can do.

Further Investigation

- Try experimenting with different angles of the tray. Do the angles make a difference to the formations that are made?
- Attempt to pour the water in to the sand pit at faster and slower flow rates. Does it make features faster?
- If you pour the water in to the tray at a different point, does it still join the river? Does it form a new river or channel?

VIDEOS FOR THIS RESOURCE AT:

INTRODUCTION:



Clickable Link:

<https://youtu.be/W351iFYDGFE>

CONCLUSION:



Clickable Link:

<https://youtu.be/u97cppOtJpY>

