

# CREATE A GRAND CANYON WITH BUDDY BISON



Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park

Did you know that the Grand Canyon is over a mile deep? Over millions of years, the water of the Colorado River has carved the rock into the plateaus and valleys you see today. Erosion is the process by which soil or rock is dissolved and transported. See how water can erode surfaces in this cool experiment!

## SUPPLIES

- Disposable cup
- Aluminum tray
- Book to prop-up tray
- Ruler or a small piece of wood; same width as tray
- Tape
- Sand or dirt
- Water



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the sand/dirt in an even layer on the aluminum tray.
2. Lay the ruler/wood across the aluminum tray and tape down the ends (see photo for placement).
3. Poke two to five holes in the bottom of your cup.
4. Tape the cup to the center of the ruler making sure the holes at the bottom of the cup are not covered.
5. Prop-up the tray with a book on the same side of the cup to create a slope.
6. Pour water into the cup.
7. Observe how the water shapes the sand/dirt. Do you notice any similarities to the Grand Canyon?

**READY FOR MORE? TRY THIS:** Add model houses, trees, rocks or other natural materials to your landscape. See if you can stop or change erosion with these materials. Then flood your tray with a lot of water at once and observe changes.

