Overview

The Changing Earth Module consists of five investigations that introduce students to these fundamental concepts in earth science: change takes place when things interact; all things change over time; patterns of interaction and change are useful in explaining landforms.

FOSS Expects Students to:

- Gain experience with models and maps.
- Gain experience with the concepts of erosion and deposition.
- Observe the effect of water on surface features of the land, using stream tables.
- Plan and conduct stream-table investigations.
- Relate processes that they observe in the stream-table models to processes that created famous landforms.
- Become familiar with topographic maps and some of the techniques used to create them.
- Gain experience with the concepts of contour and elevation.
- Use measurement in the context of scientific investigations.
- Apply mathematics in the context of science.
- Acquire vocabulary associated with landforms and the processes that create landforms.
- Use scientific thinking processes to conduct investigations and build explanations: observing, communicating, comparing, organizing and relating.

Assessments

FOSS assessment is organized into three categories:

- **Content knowledge**: the facts and scientific concepts of the module
- **Conducting Investigations**: the skills needed for successful inquiry
- **Building Explanations**: the communication of ideas and evidence to support student learning

*Formative* and *summative* assessment strategies help the teacher understand what the students have learned and can do. Throughout the investigations, teachers use formative assessment strategies to inform their instruction, and the end-of-module and portfolio summative assessments provide evaluate information.

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