

F CUSED FIELD TRIPS

PLEASE NOTE: Parts of Level 1 and all of Level 4 are currently under renovation while we prepare your next scientific adventures! For up-to-date construction information, please visit azscience.org/construction_updates.

First Grade Student Investigation

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This Investigation contains activities on a variety of topics found throughout the Center. Exhibits are also sometimes removed temporarily for repair or refurbishment, or may be in use by other groups, so be prepared to be flexible.

Investigation Activities

Level 3: Forces of Nature, Sybil B. Harrington Galleries

What's the Weather?

The weather is all around us. It is an important part of our lives and one that we cannot control. Instead, the weather often controls how and where we live, what we do, what we wear and what we eat. Someone who studies the weather is called a meteorologist. Forecasters who you see on television make weather predictions.

Where to go

Immersion Theater; check when the next showing will start. The show runs frequently throughout the day.

What to do

Explain that different parts of the world experience different types of weather. Ask the students:

*What are some types of weather you have you experienced?
What are some other types of storms you have heard of before?*

Stand on the stage and enjoy the forces of nature. After the show ask the students:

*What types of weather did you experience?
What types of damage did the weather cause?
How can weather change your life and the lives of others?*

What's That Rock?

Geology is the study of Earth. A geologist is a person who studies the Earth. Remember, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic are the three main types of rocks. Did you know there are specific features we can look for in rocks to determine which type they are?

Where to go

Earth Rocks: Take a Closer Look

What to do

Have students use the magnifying eye to look at examples of each type of rock. Ask the students:

What do you notice about the rocks?

Can you describe them?

Do all of the rocks look the same? Why or why not?

How would you sort these rocks into groups? Which ones would go together?

Dig In!

Erosion shapes the land around us. Wind and water are two types of erosion that breaks down the land around us. Wind erosion is when light objects, such as rocks and pebbles are carried by the wind and can hit landforms, eroding materials off them, which are carried off in the wind. Water erosion occurs by the force of the water flowing over rocks and soil. Over time, when rocks, pebbles or even boulders smack the riverbed, or side, further erosion occurs. Bits and pieces of rock, soil and earth are carried down river.

Where to go

Stream Table

What to do

Encourage the students to play at the stream table to see how water changes a mound of sand they build, a dam they build, and a layer of sand they spread out on the table.

Ask them to create the slow moving river, without any standing water.

Have the students predict how the water will change their sand formations. What happened at first? Later?

Level 4: Solarville, in the APS Gallery
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Coming soon! This new, brightly-colored, eco-friendly gallery will offer hands-on exhibits presenting solar energy in a whole new light!

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