

Name: _____

Setting Up a Stream Table

A stream table is an enclosure containing a layer of substrate simulating the bed of a stream. Water running over and through the substrate carves a stream channel. You will create a simulated stream in a tray to explore how actual streams behave.

Making a stream

Materials

Plastic tub, bucket, water, water pump, stream table media, hardware cloth, shelf liner

Setup

Your first task is to construct the stream bed. You want the media to stay in place rather than to slide around on the smooth bottom of the plastic tub. To that end, you will first put down the hardware cloth, or the shelf liner, or both. Layer the stream table media on top of it.

Operation

You get to figure out this part. You want to have the stream flow across the simulated landscape. You can use the water pump to supply a stream of water from a bucket to the channel, and allow the outflow to drain out the bottom. Of course, you want to catch the outflow in a bucket rather than to go onto the lab table and the floor.

Investigation

Today, you are setting up your stream table and trying to get it to act like a real stream.. Next week we will see what we can learn about actual stream behavior.

Lab report

Show me how your stream table works.