Name ______________________________

Erosion?

Modeling Erosion

1. Wind Erosion

Describe what happens to the soil when you blow air across it. ______________________________

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Place several rocks across the surface of the soil. Blow air across the soil. Do the rocks make a difference in how the soil eroded? Explain and draw a diagram with labels.

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2. Water Erosion

Raise one end of the erosion tray. Describe what happens to the soil when you sprinkle water on

it. ____

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Can you see gullies forming? ___________ Describe what they look like and how they are made.

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Place several rocks across the surface of the soil. Sprinkle water on it.
Does the presence of rocks change the way the water eroded the soil? Explain.

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3. Preventing Soil Erosion

Repeat the wind and water experiment. This time place a chunk of sod on top of the soil. First blow air across the grass. Then sprinkle water on the sod. Write a statement that explains the difference in how soil is eroded when it has plants growing in it and when it does not have plants growing in it.

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4. Discovering Erosion

Take a walk around your school playground and look for evidence of erosion. Look for where soil and sand could collect, such as around the swing set, at the edge of the playground, at the doors of the building, or around fence posts. Find bare patches in the grass. Find any hills - even small ones - and examine what is happening. Make a list of what you discovered.

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Are there any retaining walks to hold back soil? Where? ____________________

Explain the difference between weathering and erosion.

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