

Important Points to Remember When You Write up Your Stream Table Experiment

Question Because our stream tables model real processes in the real world (erosion, deposition) you want to phrase your question so that you are wondering about something that happens in the real world. Instead of asking, "What happens if we flood our stream table?" ask "What happens to a plateau during a flash flood?"

Hypothesis Use your knowledge and experience from our stream table experiments to make a reasonable prediction about what the results of your experiment will be. Be specific about some things you expect to see, such as, "We expect the canyon to be deeper and the delta longer because of the steeper slope."

Procedure Write up the procedure you followed as you conducted the experiment because you might have made some adjustments to your plan after your proposal was approved. Look at your notes from the experiment, and write up the steps you followed when you did it.

Data Collection (Stream Table Map) Remember that Mr. Kellogg has extra stream table maps so you can add ones to show the results of different trials when you changed a variable. You can staple extra copies to your landforms journals. There are also digital photos of many of the trials on the class computers in Mr. Kellogg's room.

Results When you write up the results section, the most important thing to do is compare what you saw to your hypothesis. When you compare the results to the hypothesis, ask yourself these questions:

- What was different from our prediction?
- What happened that we predicted would happen?
- What was surprising and/or interesting?

Conclusion The conclusion should be a few sentences that answer these questions:

- Did your results prove or disprove your hypothesis? (If you learned that your hypothesis was wrong, that's perfectly OK- it doesn't mean your experiment was bad! You learned something important, and that's what being a scientist is all about!)
- What did you learn? Surprises, AHAs, confirmations of your hunches.
- What would you do differently if you did another experiment exploring your question?