

Science Fair Projects



Prepared by: Hamilton County SWCD
29 Triangle Park Drive, #2901 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-3411
Phone: (513)772-7645

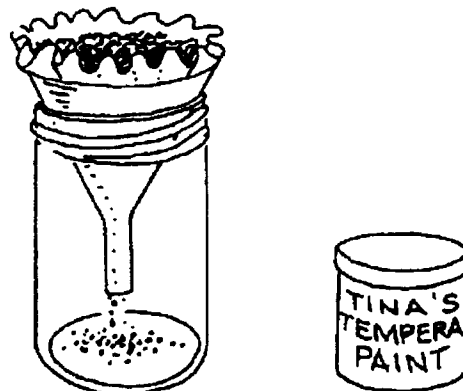
Science Fair Project Ideas!!

- ◆ A water "balance sheet" for your state - maps, tables, inflow, uses, outflow, projections, trends, proposals.
 - ◆ Ground water - Its Travels. Use diagrams, models (animated or static).
 - ◆ Conservation Agencies - how many; functions, support.
 - ◆ Food chains - diagrams and examples.
 - ◆ Development of rocks - diagrams, modeling clay, models, etc.
 - ◆ 1,000 years of weather (What we learn from tree-ring chronology).
 - ◆ The weather of your state - climate; contributing factors.
 - ◆ A home-made weather station.
 - ◆ The web of life (interrelationships of living things).
- A comparison of water yield and erosion in two plots differing in floral composition.

Run Off

Purpose: To demonstrate how rain affects topsoil.

Materials: dirt
red powdered tempera paint
measuring spoon, teaspoon (5 ml)
stirring spoon
funnel
wide-mouthed jar, 1 qt. (1 liter)
coffee filter paper
measuring cup, 1 cup (250 ml)



Procedure:

- ◆ Add 1/4 teaspoon (1.25 ml) of red tempera paint to 1/4 cup (75 ml) of dirt. Mix thoroughly.
- ◆ Set the funnel in the jar.
- ◆ Place the coffee filter inside the funnel.
- ◆ Pour the colored sand into the paper filter.
- ◆ Add 1/4 cup (75 ml) of water to the funnel.
- ◆ Observe the water dripping into the jar.

Pour this water out of the jar and add another 1/4 cup (75 ml) of water to the funnel.

Results: The liquid dripping out of the funnel is red.

Why? The red paint represents nutrients in topsoil that are soluble in water. Nutrients dissolve in rainwater and feed the plants growing in the soil. If the rain is too heavy, the water runs across the land, taking the dissolved nutrients with it. Excessive rains can leave the topsoil lacking in necessary nutrients.

*Both activities from: 200 Goopy, Slippery, Silmy, Weird & Fun Experiments,
Janice Van Cleave, 1993, John Wiley & Sons Inc. N.Y.*