

May - Week 4

Rain Storms and Storm Water

Spring is often a rainy season. The normal rainfall for May is 3.91 inches. May has the highest normal rainfall amount for a spring month. Sometimes this rain drizzles over several days, and sometimes a lot of water falls in a short amount of time. The rain water infiltrates the soil, it flows downhill, and it gathers into puddles, streams, and lakes. As water moves, it can pick up soil particles and drop them in a new location. This erosion and deposition gradually changes the shape of the land.

During or after a medium to large rain event, wander around outside your home, your school, or your local park. Look for small examples of soil being moved by water. Look around downspouts, around the drip line of the building, on blacktop, near a curb, or in a place where the soil is bare. Can you find evidence of erosion and deposition made by the rainwater? Find a tiny river, a place where water flowed and picked up a bit of soil. Where was the soil deposited? These tiny changes we see around us reflect the large changes that happen with full sized rivers and streams. By carefully observing the tiny landscape changes near you, you will gain understanding about how erosion and deposition work on the larger landscape.

At the top of your journal page, record the date, your location, and the amount of rain that has fallen recently. Create a diagram of 2 locations where you notice that the water moved soil in some way. Use arrows and labels to show the movement of soil by the water. The map you create will have similarities to maps showing erosion and deposition on a large scale.

A muddy trail is a good place to find erosion at work. These should be avoided as we explore the natural world.

