Erosion Engineering
Preparation Before Class

For each group of students at a table (or for a single homeschool student), you'll need a container of cornmeal "land" and for each pair of students, you'll need a "drip stick". If you already prepared the "land" and "drip sticks" for the prior lesson, you can reuse them in this activity.

Make cornmeal "land"

Each group of 4 students needs about 1 cup of "land." The mixture is made of 3 parts cornmeal to 1 part salt and 1 part water. The table below gives you the amounts for specific numbers of students. After mixing it all up in a mixing bowl, it should be a little stickier than wet sand. If it's too sticky and doesn't slide out of a cup easily, add more cornmeal. If it's not sticky enough, add more water. For each group of 4 students, put about 1 cup of "land" into plastic containers. Cover with a lid until ready to teach.

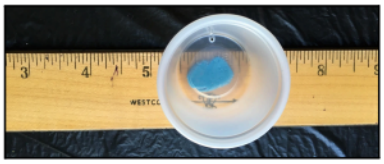
How many students?	How much cornmeal?	How much salt?	How much water?	How much "land"?
6	1 ½ cups	½ cup	½ cup	2 cups
12	3 cups	1 cup	1 cup	4 cups
24	6 cups	2 cups	2 cups	8 cups
30	7 ½ cups	2 ½* cups	2 ½ cups	10 cups

* Note: Salt is often sold in 26-oz containers. That's about 2½ cups of salt.

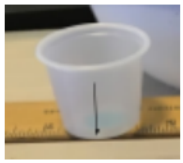
Make "drip stick" rainmakers

You'll need a "drip stick" for each pair of students (or single homeschool student).

1. Use a pushpin to poke a hole in the bottom of a small plastic condiment cup. Put the hole close to one side of the cup. Wiggle the pin to make a large hole.



2. Position the condiment cup in the center of a ruler, with the hole extending over the edge. Use some sticky tack to hold the cup securely in place.



3. With a permanent marker, draw an arrow on the side of the cup, pointing down at the hole.