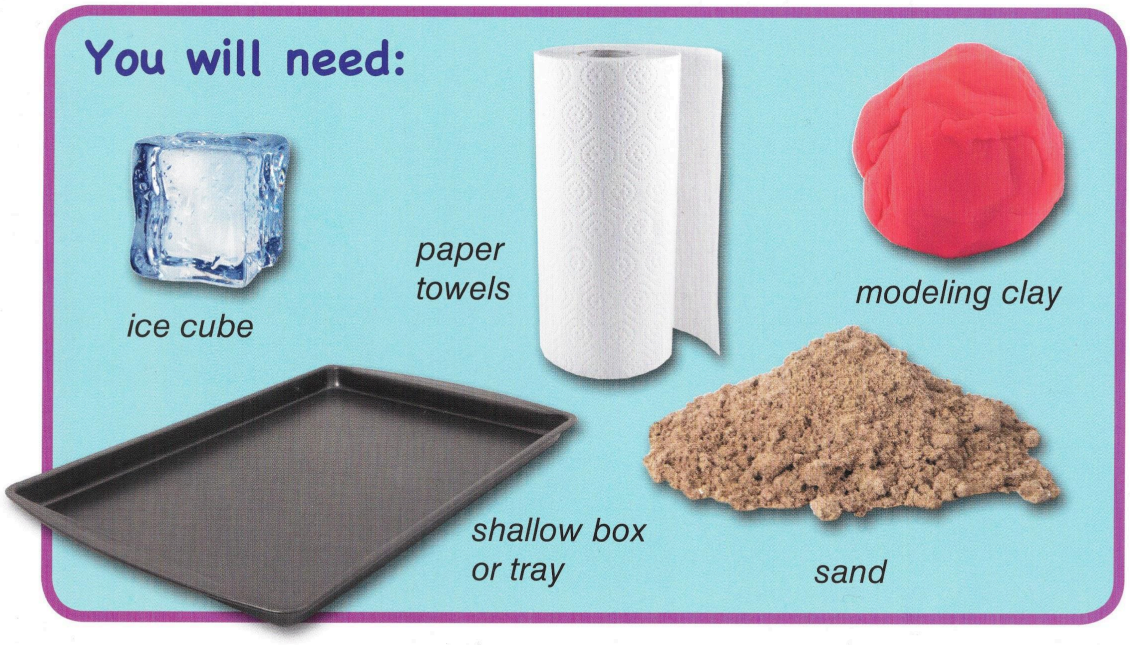
River of ice activity

Glaciers have a big effect on landforms. Their weight and movement cause changes to the ground under them. This activity will show you some of the ways glaciers change the surface of Earth.



Steps

1. Flatten a small ball of clay onto the tray.

2. Move the ice cube back and forth over the clay several times. Look for changes in the surface of the clay.

3. Now place some sand on top of the clay. Put the ice cube on top of the sand and leave it for one minute.

4. Pick up the ice cube and look at the side that was touching the sand. What do you see?

5. Place the sandy ice cube back on the clay. Press it down, and move it back and forth several times.

6. Remove the ice cube. Use a paper towel to gently brush the sand off the clay.

Asking questions

- What changes did you notice on the surface of the clay after you rubbed the sandy ice cube on it?
- What do you think would happen if the sand was replaced with bigger rocks?
- How does this activity teach us how glaciers change the surface of Earth?

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