



## How a Delta Forms - Student Experiment Sheet

Lesson 2 > Part 1 > The Mississippi River Delta

### TRIAL 1: Follow the directions below to create a river delta with the stream table.

1. Fill the top half of the tray with sand, leave the rest of the tray empty. Wet the sand before adding the river.
2. Prop the top end of the tray up with a book/blocks/etc., so that the tray sits at a slight incline.
3. Position the water container above the sand at the top of the tray. This will represent the headwaters (where the river begins). Place a container under the tray to catch the water that drains out through the hole.
4. Allow water to flow onto the sand as a slow but steady stream. Note the time when you begin the flow of water.
5. Record observations once per minute, for at least five minutes, or until a fan-shaped delta has formed where the river meets the ocean.
  - Look closely for features that you see forming in the sand and where the “river” meets the “ocean.”

### TRIAL 2: The variable we are changing is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe or draw how you will set up Trial 2 of the experiment in the box below.**

- How is Trial 2 different from Trial 1?
- What observations or data will you record? How will you measure it?



## How a Delta Forms - Student Experiment Sheet

Lesson 2 > Part 1 > The Mississippi River Delta

OBSERVATIONS		
	TRIAL 1	TRIAL 2
<b>0 minutes (beginning)</b>		
<b>at 1 minute</b>		
<b>at 2 minutes</b>		
<b>at 3 minutes</b>		
<b>at 4 minutes</b>		
<b>at 5 minutes</b>		