

# Let's sort it out

Put similar amounts of coarse and fine sand, coarse and fine gravel, soil and clay into a large lemonade bottle nearly full of water. Shake the bottle and watch what happens.

This very simple device fascinates children and demonstrates the process of deposition, sedimentation and graded bedding found in lakes and reservoirs. It can be used to show how sandstones, mudstones, limestones, shale etc., are formed by particles settling under water.

Let the children use their senses to investigate the different types of material, noting their similarities and differences. Can the children predict the order of settlement and give reasons for their prediction?

## COMMUNICATING TO OTHERS

Children could make a cartoon strip of what they did and what happened.

## EXTENSIONS

Children could carry out research to find out which plants survive best in the different sediments, and why.

## MATERIALS

Large plastic lemonade bottle (2 litre size)

Coarse gravel

Fine gravel

Coarse sand

Fine sand

Soil

Clay

Water

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## EXPERIMENT

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1 The bed of a lake is made up of a variety of different materials. Can you find out in which order they settle?

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2 Put similar amounts of coarse and fine sand, coarse and fine gravel, soil and clay into a large lemonade bottle nearly full of water. Shake the bottle and watch what happens.

How can you show others what you have found out?