**Modelling soil erosion**

**KEY INQUIRY SKILLS:**

* processing and analysing data and information
* communicating

**Equipment:**

* *stream tray or other metal or wooden tray*
* *sand*
* *wooden block*
* *rubber tubing to fit a water tap*
* *small plastic lid (from an orange juice container)*
* *twigs, matches or cotton buds to act as trees*

**Method**

* Pack slightly damp sand into the tray so that it is fairly level.
* Use a small block of wood to raise one end of the tray slightly. Place the other end of the tray on the edge of a sink or over an empty bucket.
* With one finger, make a slightly winding groove in the sand as shown in the diagram below.
* Plant ‘trees’ along one edge of your model river using twigs, matches or cotton buds.
* Place the plastic lid in the sand at the top of the groove and aim the rubber tubing from the tap over it.
* Turn on the tap so that water flows slowly but steadily into the plastic lid, overflowing into the groove.