



## Sand Dune Movement Practical Activity

Sand dunes are amazing natural features of our beaches and are important for their protection. This experiment is to see how wind can form and change the shape of the sand dunes and beaches.

This activity can be done at home/in the classroom or when at the beach.

### At home/in the classroom option: what you will need

- paving sand, loose dry light soil or craft sand or sand from a sandpit
- electric fan
- safe space to undertake experiment that is easy to clean

### At the beach option: what you will need

- dry sand
- windy day or a hand fan

### At home/in the classroom instructions

- find a safe place that is easy to clean that you can plug in a fan
- spread the sand or dry light soil on the floor in a small area
- turn fan on and let it blow across the sand/soil
- watch for small 'dunes' to form

### At the beach instructions

- when at the beach on a windy day, watch the wind blow the sand.
- look at the direction it is blowing, is it heading towards the sand dunes, the water or along the beach
- if there is not much wind, you could use a handheld fan to blow the sand and watch how it piles up to form little dunes

### Questions:

What did you notice when the wind changes direction?

Do you think sand dunes can move and change shape over time?