

# LETTER TO FAMILY

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*Cut here and glue letter onto school letterhead before making copies.*

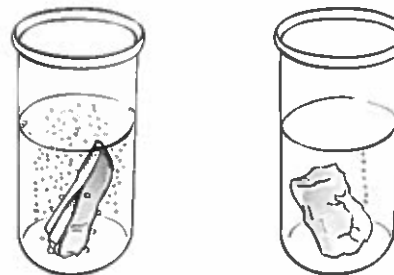
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## Science News

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Dear Family,

Our class is beginning a new science unit using the **FOSS Soils, Rocks, and Landforms Module**. We will observe soils and explore how the weathering of rocks provides the basic ingredients that form soil. Through stream-table investigations we will investigate how erosion and deposition move earth materials and shape new landforms. We will study how changes in Earth can be due to slow processes, such as erosion, as well as rapid processes, such as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. And we will explore the formation of fossils and what they tell us about the formation of landforms.



Later, we will learn how topographic maps are made and how they help people understand the shape of the land they represent. Finally, we will study earth materials as important natural resources.

You can increase your child's understanding and interest in earth science by asking him or her to talk about the investigations we are doing at school. Take a walk around your neighborhood and look for the effects of weathering and erosion. Talk about the impacts of natural Earth processes on your community, state, or region (earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions) and what is being done to reduce the impacts.

Watch for Home/School Connection sheets that I will be sending home from time to time. These describe ways the whole family can look more closely at soils, rocks, and landforms around your home.

We're looking forward to weeks of fun with earth science! If you have questions or comments, or have expertise you would like to share with the class, please drop me a note. You can get more information on this module by going to [www.FOSSweb.com](http://www.FOSSweb.com).

Sincerely,