

The Wonderful World of Waterfalls!

Let's dive into the exciting world of waterfalls today! Have you ever seen a picture of a giant waterfall? Or maybe even visited one? They are amazing natural wonders where water takes a big jump!

What is a Waterfall?

A waterfall is a place where a river or stream flows over a steep drop, like a step. Imagine water running along flat ground and suddenly falling off a cliff – that's a waterfall!

How Do Waterfalls Form?

Waterfalls often happen when a river flows over different kinds of rock.

1. First, the river flows over a layer of very hard, strong rock.
2. Underneath that hard rock, there's usually a layer of softer rock.
3. The falling water wears away the softer rock much faster than the hard rock on top.
4. Over a long, long time, this difference creates a steep step or cliff, and the water tumbles over it! The place where the water lands is often called a plunge pool.

Let's Build a Waterfall! (Activity)

We can make our own mini-waterfall to see how it works.

1. Find a spot outside where it's okay to get a little wet, or use the large plastic bin indoors.
2. Pile up some rocks and dirt at one end of the bin or area to create a 'hill' or 'cliff'. Try to make a flat top layer with a steeper drop-off. You can use a flat rock for the top edge if you have one.
3. Slowly pour water from the pitcher or watering can onto the top of your hill, letting it flow towards the edge.
4. Watch as the water tumbles over the edge! You've made a mini-waterfall!
5. Experiment: Try pouring faster or slower. What happens? Try changing the shape of your cliff.

Waterfall Wonders

Did you know waterfalls can be tiny little drops or huge, powerful giants like Niagara Falls or Angel Falls (the tallest in the world!)? They are beautiful habitats for plants and sometimes animals, and people love to visit them.

Wrap-up & Check-in

- Can you tell me in your own words what a waterfall is?
- What happens to make the water fall down? (Hint: hard rock and soft rock!)
- Draw a picture of the waterfall we made or a waterfall you imagine. Label the falling water and the pool at the bottom if you can!

Great job exploring waterfalls today!