

# Sea Level Changes

## Summary

Students will build models to demonstrate the effects of changing sea level on Earth's surface area. They will graph their results.

## Main Core Tie

Science - Earth Science

[Standard 3 Objective 3](#)

## Time Frame

1 class periods of 60 minutes each

## Group Size

Small Groups

## Materials

- transparent plastic box (shoe box size)
- rock large enough to take up about a third of the box
- 250 mL beaker
- water
- marker
- ruler
- bucket, tray or sink to add or subtract water into
- [grid for transparency](#)  
(attached)
- [student sheet](#)  
(attached)

## Instructional Procedures

- Each group of 4 students should have a set of materials.
- Read introduction and instructions on student sheet.
- Brainstorm list of reasons with class that oceans might rise or fall. It should include:
  - Melting glacial ice due to warmer temperature.
  - Periods of extreme cold adding glacial ice to the land.
  - Warm periods causing evaporation, rain, allowing for additional plant growth
  - Moving land masses that create or destroy ocean coastlines and depths
- Allow students time to work and prepare their graphs.

## Extensions

Have students place a biodegradable packing peanut or sugar cube on the shoreline to model a man-made structure. Have them note the affect of rising and falling oceans on the structure.

## Bibliography

Lesson Design by Jordan School District Teachers and Staff.

## Authors

