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Human Impact Removing Wetland Areas Science Notebook Page

In the last experiment, we looked at how building in floodplains effects the river. Houses and debris entering the river isn't the only way building in floodplains has an effect on flooding. Generally, making room for housing developments and new buildings means removing the natural wetlands in an area and replacing them with pavement. Wetlands help absorb and filter water before it enters the river; they can also help stop erosion from eating away at the banks. For this experiment, let's test to see another real-life effect of building in a floodplain. For this experiment, you are going to need a couple of different things.

- Two cups of water
- An area of sidewalk, street, or pavement
- An area with dirt/soil or a bucket of dirt

Instructions:

1. Find an area of pavement.
2. Make a prediction as to what you think is going to happen to the pavement.

Make a prediction. What do you think is going to happen to the pavement when you add the water?

3. Pour one cup of water onto the pavement.
4. Watch what happens to the water.

What do you notice happening?

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- 5. Find an area of dirt or use a bucket with dirt.
- 6. Make a prediction as to what you think is going to happen to the dirt.

Make a prediction. What do you think is going to happen to the dirt when you add the water?

- 7. Pour your remaining cup of water onto the dirt.
- 8. Watch what happens to the water.

What did you notice happening?

After looking at the different ways humans can impact flooding, how do you think we can reduce the severity of floods?
