

## EROSION & SOIL CONSERVATION

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**Grade:** High School

**Subject:** Environmental Science

### PRIMARY SOURCES USED

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- [Erosion \[at\] Copper Hill, Ducktown, Tennessee due to injuries from copper fumes](#)
- [Reconnaissance erosion survey of the State of Tennessee. \[1934\]](#)
- [Wilson Dam, Alabama \(Tennessee Valley Authority\(TVA\)\). Civilian Conservation Corps boys weeding loblolly pine seedlings at TVA nursery. Since 1934, eighty million trees have been planted for soil conservation and flood control in the Tennessee Valley.](#)
- [Strip-cropping to convert damage done by erosion.](#)

### ACTIVITIES

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1. Discuss the overall issue: how are environmental problems (e.g. erosion, desertification, acid deposition, simplified ecosystems, and soil desalinization) associated with farming practices and soil conservation practices?
2. Questions to ask or research:
  - Where was erosion the worst in Tennessee in 1934?
  - Why might that be? (See the Reconnaissance erosion survey)
  - How do copper fumes create erosion?
  - What has been done to help soil conservation in the Tennessee Valley? Does this work? Why or why not?
  - Where do you think the worst places would be today? Why?
  - How might these pictures or maps look if they were taken today?

**Curriculum Standards:**  
**Standard 4: Water and Land Resources**

*Conceptual Strand:*

- Humans use natural resources in a variety of ways.

*Guiding Question:*

- How can natural resources be sustainably managed for the benefit of all living things?

*Course Level Expectations:*

- CLE 3260.4.1 Examine common resource use practices in agriculture, forestry, urban/suburban development, mining, and fishing.
- CLE 3260.4.3 Compare and contrast preservation and conservation.
- CLE 3260.4.4 Evaluate the impact of human activities on natural resources.

*Checks for Understanding:*

- 3260.4.2 Summarize how environmental problems (e.g. erosion, desertification, acid deposition, simplified ecosystems, and soil desalinization) are associated with farming practices and soil conservation practices.

[http://www.tn.gov/education/ci/sci/2009\\_10/3260\\_Environment\\_Sci.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/education/ci/sci/2009_10/3260_Environment_Sci.pdf)



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US TODAY?

What methods do we employ today to avoid erosion or to help soil conservation? What does your city or county do to help soil conservation? Try contacting your local government or Erosion Prevention office to find out what your area does.

You can find out more about this topic at these Web sites:

- [Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook](#)
- [Tennessee Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control](#)

You can still see the effects of environmental destruction through soil erosion at Copper Hill in Ducktown, Tennessee. Visit the Ducktown Basin Museum to learn more about the copper mining industry in this region, and to see the historic [Burra Burra Mine site](#). Read articles about mining in the Ducktown Basin [here](#) and [here](#) (with more primary source photographs).

Wilson Dam, though located in Alabama, is similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority dams in Tennessee. You can read the National Register nomination form for the structure and see more historic photographs [here](#).



[Erosion \[at\] Copper Hill, Ducktown, Tennessee due to injuries from copper fumes.](#)

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