Teacher Tips Stick in the Mud

Lesson 3
Selecting a Site

- For Sahrig River portion: compare 1920 & 1974 maps by holding both copies together up to the light
- It is very important students come to a consensus about curvature at each site along the riverbank.
  - Use angle templates, objects (e.g. pencil), etc. to compare curvature; make class chart
- Make sure soil is well-aerated and not dried out!
  - Use topsoil, instead of potting soil, or add some topsoil to potting soil for better compaction
  - Materials prep: mix gravel and soil in student containers, or have student mix themselves
- Students may need support to keep the containers of soil evenly spaced throughout the experiment.
  - Consider using a visual reminder of distance between the containers, e.g. tape strip or construction paper
- Containers should be covered and turned upside down to aerate between compactions, not shaken
- Understanding erosion is very important in this unit.
  - Videos from EiE Science Literacy links
  - Experiencing erosion in a river model: use a broom handle with 5 students, have them turn a corner while holding on to the handle, in a straight line
  - Stream table experience