

Wind and Waves

Objective: Students will learn how waves and wind are made.

Teacher

Preparation: Obtain a large bowl or large rectangular baking dish, electric fan with multiple speeds (optional), and water.

Procedure:

1. Fill the bowl or dish with water. Blow across the water's surface. If using a fan, use the lowest speed. Observe the water's surface.
2. Now try blowing the water very hard (preferably near a sink) and keep blowing as long as you can. If using a fan, use the next fastest speed. Observe the surface water now.

Discussion:

1. Describe the changes in the water's surface from when you first start the wind, after several minutes, and at different wind strengths.
2. Where do the waves or ripples reach their greatest height in the dish? (Far end of dish)
3. In what three ways could you increase the size of the waves? (Increase wind speed, length of dish, or duration of wind).

