

St. Anthony Sand Dunes



The largest sand dunes in Idaho are on the eastern edge of the volcanic edge of the Snake River Plain. Some of the white quartz dunes can reach a height of 500 feet. Ten thousand years ago, this area was covered in vegetation and large lakes. As the last ice age ended, the lakes shrank, but the sand from the floodplain deposits of nearby rivers remains. The process continues slowly today as sand is still blown eastward from the Snake and Teton floodplains. Students can use this landscape to explore how climate changes affect the features we see today, or to investigate the importance of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

Additional Resources:

- NASA Earth Observatory [St Anthony Sand Dunes](#)
- Idaho DEQ [Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer](#)

Performance Standards

2 nd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	Middle School	High School
2-ESS-1.1. Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly. 2-ESS-2.2. Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.	4-ESS-2.2. Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features.	5-ESS-2.2. Describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.	MS-ESS-3.5. Ask questions to interpret evidence of the factors that cause climate variability over time.	HS-ESS-2.5. Plan and conduct an investigation of how the chemical and physical properties of water contribute to the mechanical and chemical mechanisms that affect Earth materials and surface processes. HS-ESS-3.1. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity.



The Idaho Science Coaches are a group of Science specialists funded by the Idaho State Department of Education who provide research-based science professional development for educators in Idaho. The inclusion of resources on this page does **NOT** constitute an endorsement or recommendation of any specific online material, program, or by any person or group who has contributed. These resources are provided solely to support implementation of the Idaho State Content Standards in Science and improve student learning.

