

Hummocky Terrain Observation Walk

Activity Overview

Students explore hummocky terrain, a classic sign of stagnant ice melting unevenly. They observe pits, mounds, slope changes, and compare this terrain to smoother glacial features.

Materials Needed

- Clipboards
- Sketch paper
- Optional: compass or clinometer

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Walk students along a section of visible hummocky terrain.
2. Students identify rises, dips, and abrupt slope changes.
3. Students sketch a rough map of the terrain section.
4. Discuss why terrain formed by melting buried ice is irregular rather than smooth.
5. Introduce terms like 'kame,' 'kettle,' and 'collapse topography.'

Teacher Notes

- This activity pairs well with kettle cross-section sketches.
- Point out how close together pits and mounds often are.
- Ideal for helping students visualize stagnant ice landscapes.