What You'll Need:
Three aluminum-foil cooking pans; three lengths of rubber or plastic tubing (1/2-inch in diameter); tape; a mixture of soil, sand, and clay; potting soil; blocks of wood; three bowls, cereal grains

What You'll Do:
1. Poke a small hole in one end of each aluminum pan, near the upper rim. Put one end of a length of tubing into each hole, using tape to hold it there. Into each pan put a layer of the soil, sand, and clay mixture. Then add a layer of potting soil on top of that.
2. Put all three pans indoors in a place where they will get sunlight. Rest all three pans on blocks of wood to elevate the pans at about a 30-degree angle. The tubing should be on the bottom end of each pan. Put the free end of each tube into a bowl.
3. In one pan, make rows across the width of the pan and plant cereal grains in the rows. In another pan, make the rows lengthwise and plant the grain. Don't plant anything in the third pan.
4. Use a plant mister to keep the grain moist until it sprouts. Continue to water the grain until the seedlings are about two inches tall. Don't do anything to the empty pan.

5. Once the seedlings in the two pans are about two inches tall, begin using a watering can to sprinkle all three pans. The watering can should have a spout that imitates rain.

6. Each time you water the pans, watch the water that runs into the bowls. Which bowl collects more potting soil? Why? What could you do to prevent potting soil from eroding into the bowls?