

Volcano in the lab! Modelling igneous processes in wax and sand

Mary from New Mexico

A very popular demonstration with students. This year I combined this ELI with 'Partial Melting' and created a mixed layer of pebbles and wax below the sand. Students were thus able to see that it is not necessary to have a completely molten layer to generate magmas.

Several phenomena we observed this year included, small puffs of 'magma' rising from the vent, so we ended up with small balls of wax floating on the water. The other larger vent demonstrated a rather complex intrusive body beneath the surface flow.

