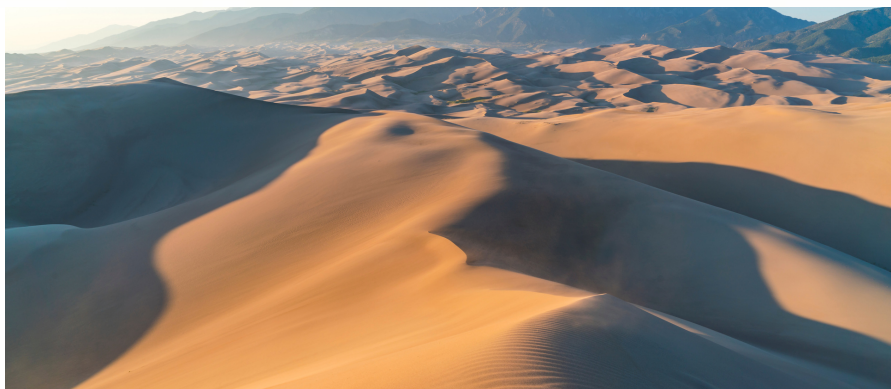
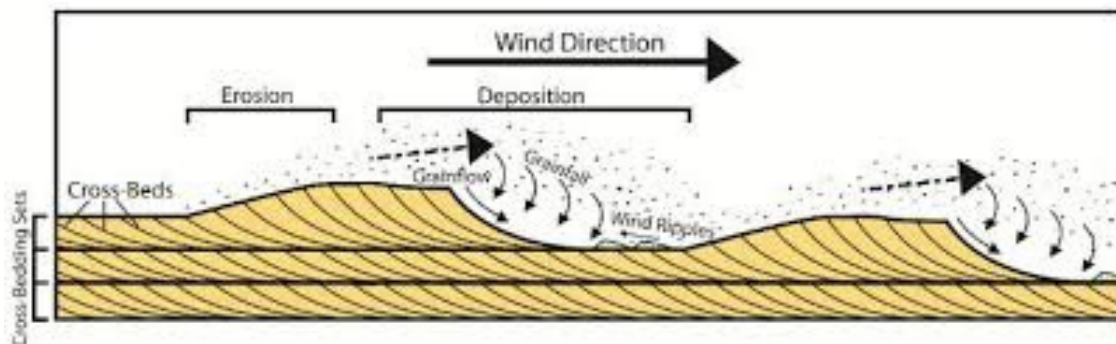




# Sand Dune Formation

There are many sand dunes all along Central California's beaches. Sand dunes form when wind blows sand over an obstacle of some sort (stick, rock, plant) and the sand starts to build up over that obstacle. As time goes on, more and more sand builds up, creating massive sand dunes.

Sand dunes create a very unique habitat for animals of all kinds. The sand dunes on California's Central Coast are home to animals such as the Western Snowy Plover, snakes, lizards, rodents, insects and much more. Some species of plants also call sand dunes home. Growing in sand is not easy, so there are only a few types of plants that can grow in sand dunes habitats. Some of these plants are beachgrass and sand willows.



Create your own sand dunes with this activity that demonstrates how wind builds massive sand dunes over time!

## Materials

- Plastic Container
- Sand (you can also use flour)
- Straw

## Step 1

Fill your plastic container with sand or flour. Optional: you can also place small sticks or rocks in the sand to create a more realistic environment.

## Step 2

Using your straw, blow on the sand and watch it form dunes. Be careful not to get sand in your eyes!

