

Kelsey Kimberling
Dust Away

The purpose of my science fair project was to discover which kind of dust will accelerate snowmelt the quickest. My hypothesis for this project was red dust would melt quicker. The constants and controls in my experiment were the temperature of the air outside, location of snow, and snow used. The variable in my experiment was the different dusts I used. The way I measured the responding or dependent variable was by measuring the amount of snow that melted, and the time the snow melted. The results of my experiment indicate that coal dust collected more heat melting the snow the quickest. The result also show that my hypothesis should be considered incorrect because red dust did not melt the now the fastest. If I was going to do this experiment again in the future or expand this experiment I would test different types of dust, cut a bigger surface of snow, and add a thicker layer of dust to see if my results changed in any way. This experiment can be useful to farmers in the San Luis Valley, because the early snowmelt causes the crops to start growing and flowering. Plants don't necessarily begin their life cycle after the snow is gone, they delay their life cycle until air temperatures warm to consistently above freezing. This causes winter kill, not good for the farmers. This is also important, for our water table when the dust storms start occurring, then we can make our water storage stronger so we don't have floods or anything like that.