



Credit: Getty Images

Making Mexican waves

This activity is designed to show how energy can be transferred in a fluidic movement, like waves in the ocean.

You will need

- Hall space
- Beach pictures

Steps

- 1** Join hands in groups of five and practise a Mexican wave.
- 2** Watch some of the other groups.
- 3** Try big movements and then small movements. This is like waves in the ocean, which can be gentle or huge depending on the weather.
- 4** Try passing the wave along the floor by sitting or lying down.
- 5** Repeat the wave in different forms, e.g. higher to lower, or faster to slower.
- 6** Add some sounds that reflect the wave action (e.g. quiet-loud-quiet).
- 7** Join the wave with other groups so the whole class is part of the same wave.

Analysis/ discussion

These repetitive motions show the relentless action of the ocean. Doing a Mexican wave for an hour would tire people out, but the wave motion in the ocean never stops. This renewable energy source can be put to good use if it can be harnessed. Look at beach pictures and try to spot how the shoreline has been shaped by the energy in crashing waves.

When defending our coast from huge waves in the winter, we find that certain materials are better than others. Why is that?

Describe what it feels like to be surfing inside a wave.