



# Making Rocks Classroom Activity



## SYNOPSIS

Students will create artificial sandstone using salt, water, and sand.

## OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- define a sedimentary rock
- describe how sedimentary rock is formed

## MATERIALS

- sand
- warm water
- stirring utensil
- dixie cups
- salt

## PROCEDURE

1. Tell the students that a sedimentary rock is formed when pieces of rock are transported and deposited elsewhere by wind or water. In this activity the students are going to create a sedimentary rock.
2. Dissolve as much salt as possible into the warm water. The water is saturated when you stir it vigorously and the salt will no longer dissolve.
3. Fill the dixie cup half full of sand.
4. Fill the remainder of the cup with the salt-water solution.
5. Cover the cup and shake it thoroughly.
6. Have the students observe the settling process.
7. When the sand settles, pour off any water that remains above it and allow the contents to dry. (This may take one or two days.)
8. After the sand has hardened, tear the paper cup off. Have the students note the hardness of the artificial sandstone.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask the students how their rocks are similar to sedimentary rocks.