

Homemade Sandstone

Always be sure to get an adult's permission and help before conducting this science experiment!

Materials

- ◆ 2 paper cups
- ◆ Spoon
- ◆ Measuring cup
- ◆ Sand
- ◆ Warm water
- ◆ Epsom salt

How Long Will It Take?

About 20 minutes, then check back after 2 days.

Procedure

1. Pour 1/2-cup warm water into the first paper cup. Dissolve 1/2-cup epsom salt into the water and stir.
2. Fill the other paper cup halfway with sand.
3. Using the spoon, sprinkle drops of the epsom salt solution onto the sand until all the sand is moist. Don't get the sand too wet!
4. Now, put the damp sand in a sunny window and check back after 2 days.
5. What happened to the sand after those 2 days?

What Did You Learn?

Sandstone is a rock that forms slowly, over a long time. How does sandstone form? Well, first there needs to be sand! Then, if conditions are right, that sand gets glued together chemically by a natural process. Minerals in the rainwater glue the individual sand grains together. Imagine your cup of sand was an ancient sand dune and the water you sprinkled on it was millions and millions of years of rain. Eventually, you will be left with *sandstone*. If too much rain falls, then the sand merely gets washed away.

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