



Worksheet 8.3 Forming crystals

This activity will enable you to see how the size of crystals formed in rocks depends on how quickly or slowly the rock cools. You will be using a very concentrated solution of salt in water.

- 1 Place concentrated solutions of salt in three evaporating dishes.
- 2 Place one dish in a fridge (or on a bed of ice). Leave one in the laboratory. Leave these until the water has evaporated. This may take a few days.
- 3 Heat one evaporating dish to evaporate off the water.

 **The solution may spit if you heat it strongly. Wear safety glasses.**

- 4 Examine the crystals formed in the three evaporating dishes. You may need to use a hand lens.

Questions

- 1 Which treatment of the salt solution produced the largest crystals?

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- 2 Which treatment of the salt solution produced the smallest crystals?

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- 3 Explain why this happened.

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- 4 Describe any other differences in the crystals apart from the size.

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- 5 How long did it take for the salt solution in the fridge to produce crystals?

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- 6 How did this compare with the time taken to form crystals in the other evaporating dishes?

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