

ACTIVITY #3

DEPOSITION OF MINERALS

Purpose: Demonstrates the concept of mineral deposition as water evaporates.

Materials: Wide Mouth Gallon Jar
Water
Marker
Baking Soda (optional)

Procedure:

1. Pour water into the jar and mark the water level.
2. Keep the jar in an accessible spot, marking the water level periodically.

Comments:

This activity requires a long time period to be effective. The jar may be set up at the beginning of the year so the evaporation of the water will be quite obvious when the rocks and minerals segment of the class is taught. When the water evaporates, students will observe the white calcium deposits along the sides of the jar. If the water being used is not high in calcium content, baking soda may be added at the beginning of the activity. To keep the students' interest in the jar throughout the year, marking the water level may be assigned as a special privilege. For example, the student with the highest grade on the spelling test each week gets to mark the water level. It may also be assigned randomly until every student is given the opportunity to mark the jar.