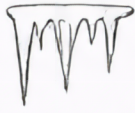


Observing the Formation of Stalactites



with Epsom Salt Solution



Name: _____

Date: _____

Age/Grade: _____

In this experiment, you will observe how stalactites can form over time when an Epsom salt solution slowly drips and the water evaporates, leaving salt behind.

1. QUESTION

How do stalactites form from an Epsom salt solution?

2. HYPOTHESIS

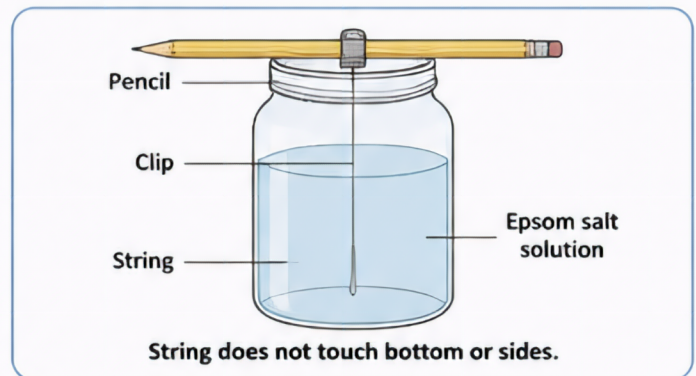
What do you think will happen?

3. MATERIALS

- Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate)
- Warm water
- Clear glass jar or cup
- String
- Pencil or craft stick
- Small clip (paper clip or binder clip)
- Measuring cup
- Stirring spoon

4. SETUP

1. Dissolve 1 cup of Epsom salt in 1 cup of warm water. Stir until no more salt will dissolve.
2. Pour the solution into a clear glass jar or cup.
3. Tie a string to a small clip.
4. Clip the other end of the string to a pencil and balance it across the top of the jar so the string hangs down into the solution without touching the bottom or sides.
5. Place the jar in a quiet spot where it will not be disturbed.



5. OBSERVATIONS

Check your setup once a day. Draw what you see and write notes about any changes.

Day	Drawing	Observations (What do you see?)
Day 1		
Day 3		
Day 5		
Day 7		
Day 10		
Day 14		

6. RESULTS

What happened? Describe the changes you observed.

7. CONCLUSION

What did you learn from this experiment?



EXTEND YOUR LEARNING

- What would happen if the jar was in a humid place instead of a dry place?
- How do natural stalactites in caves form?
- Can you think of other substances that might form stalactites?