

Chapter 8

Use with Section 4

ENRICHMENT

● Sedimentary Rocks

Analyzing Sedimentary Rocks

Materials  

- flat pan or shallow dish
- spoon
- table salt
- water

Procedure

1. Place about 3 centimeters of water in the pan or shallow dish.
2. Gradually add table salt to the water as you stir it gently.
3. Continue adding salt until no more can be dissolved in the water.
4. Stir the solution thoroughly.
5. Observe and note the appearance of the pan and its contents.
6. Place the pan with its contents on a windowsill or countertop where it will not be disturbed.
7. Once each morning and evening, observe the pan and record what you see.
8. Continue this process until all the water has evaporated.
9. Once all the water has evaporated, observe and record the appearance of the pan.

Analyze

1. What did you observe in the pan as the days passed and on the final day of this activity?

2. What caused the salt deposition in the pan? _____

Conclude and Apply

3. How does what you observed in the pan help explain sedimentary rock formation? _____

4. Sedimentary rocks formed by deposition of minerals when water evaporates are called evaporites. Name a common evaporite mineral or rock. _____

5. Deposition of evaporite sedimentary rocks occurred in the Dead Sea flats and the Bonneville salt flats. Explain what might have happened to cause the evaporite deposits. _____
