

Stalactites and Stalagmites Activity



What you will need:

- Hot water, 2 glasses
- Kitchen salt
- Twine, ~10 inches
- Plate

Overview and Objective

In caves, water drips from the walls and leaves minerals behind. Over time, these can produce formations called stalagmites and stalactites.

Now let's do a little review of where stalagmites and stalactites are located. A good trick to remember is: stalaGmites are on the Ground (has a "G") and stalaCtites are on the Ceiling (has a "C")! Another useful tip, stalactites hold "tite" (tight) to the ceiling.

These structures are sometimes found under water even! But don't be confused, they didn't form underwater. They initially formed in an open cave and then filled with water.

Process:

1. Pour salt into the hot water and stir.
2. Continue adding salt until it will no longer dissolve.
3. Take your pieces of twine and bend it into an "M" shape. Place the ends of the twine into each glass, making sure that the tip is completely saturated by the water. Have the center of the twine dip over the plate.
4. Leave this set up for 1-2 weeks in a safe area until you see significant buildup of your own stalactite.

