

Lesson 2 Mechanical Weathering - Salt and Chalk Lab

Student Activity

Predict: What will happen to a piece of colored sidewalk chalk if we mix it with salt for four minutes? What will happen to the salt? Underline your choices and then explain your answer.

The chalk will [change shape/change size/stay the same]

The salt will [change color/stay white]

Explain: _____

Materials:

- 1 small zipper lock bag
- 1 piece of colored sidewalk chalk
- 1/2 cup salt
- Timer

Student Jobs (make sure you rotate roles):

1. Materials manager
2. Recorder
3. Reporter
4. Team leader/time keeper

Procedure:

1. Materials managers get materials
2. Carefully observe the shape of the piece of chalk. Are the edges rough or smooth? Draw a picture on the lab sheet of the chalk's shape.
3. Put the piece of chalk in the bag with salt and carefully rub the contents of the bag between your hands for 4 minutes making sure that the chalk is mixed throughout the bag of salt (each student stirs for one minute). Be careful that the bag stays sealed.
4. Write down observations on the lab sheet and draw a picture about what happened to the chalk and salt.

Lab Sheet:

Labeled diagrams about what happened:

Chalk before the experiment:

Chalk after the experiment:

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Observations:

Observations:

Analysis of Data: Based on your data, answer the following question:

What happens to chalk when it is stirred with salt? Write your answer in the C-E-R format:

Claim:

Evidence:

Reasoning:
