

# CAVE FORMATION

## EXPLORATION-ELABORATION

### ***GROW YOUR OWN STALACTITE***

The student will use the scientific method to investigate the growth of stalactites and stalagmites. Students will be able to observe the formation of these cave representations over several days time.

**Problem: How do stalactites and stalagmites form in caves??**

#### **Materials and Procedure:**

**\*Set up in an areas where students can easily observe for several days.**

**BE SURE that the formations will not be bumped or moved while forming.**

\*Time-30 minutes set-up

\*Several days to observe the process

\*water

\*thick, natural fiber (use old t-shirt material)

\*cardboard

\*2 jars

\*Epsom salts

\*Hand Lens

\*Do not move experiment for several days!!!

(Formations can break easily)

1.Fill each jar with 200ml of water

2.Add enough Epsom salts(5 Tbls) in each jar of water to form a thick solution.

3. Place jars on the cardboard about 6 inches apart.
4. Soak and saturate the strip of material.
5. Place one end of the material in one jar of solution. Place the other end into the other jar of solution. Leave enough slack to there is a bow in the material, but DO NOT let it touch the cardboard.
6. Observe for several days

DO NOT MOVE OR BUMP.

### **Data and Conclusions:**

Record observations (written and pictures) of the jars and the material over several days in science notebook.

Watch for the formation of stalagmites and stalactites.

Further :

How many days do you predict it will take before the stalactites and stalagmites meet??? Tell why you think this.

