



Salty Sea Water

materials

- 1 picture graph of sea water *
- 1 globe

Per team:

- Table salt
- Pitcher of water
- 1 plastic glass
- 1 teaspoon
- 1 metric measuring cup
- 1 plastic spoon per person

background

Seventy percent of the earth is water, and of that, 97% is salt water. Where does that salt come from? Every stream and river that flows into the ocean carries some amount of salt in it. The salt comes from erosion of the minerals in those waters. It is said that one fourth of the material that the Mississippi River deposits in the ocean is dissolved minerals. Ocean water contains about 3.5% salts, mostly sodium chloride (table salt), potassium, and calcium and magnesium salts. Small plants and animals (plankton) use some of the salts and the ocean floor removes some of them as well. Most of the table salt remains in the water, however, and that accounts for the taste.



directions

1. Measure 3 teaspoons of salt into the glass.
2. Add 1000 ml of water.
3. Stir the salt and water.
4. Taste the sea water by using a clean plastic spoon.

activity time:
15 minutes



discussion

- Why is the ocean salty?
- Where does the salt come from?
- Can you see the salt in the water?
- What is salt?



extension

Make your own salt by filling a tablespoon halfway with vinegar. Sprinkle baking soda over the vinegar until the bubbling stops. Now you have a substance that tastes like salt!



related activities

"Floating a Bergy Bit"



vocabulary

Mineral - a substance that occurs naturally in rocks and in the ground that has its own appearance and chemical composition

Dissolve - to become absorbed in a liquid

Salt - sodium chloride which is a chemical compound which contains an acid and a base

alignment to national science standards

Unifying Concepts and Processes, Standards A, B, D, E

alignment to kansas science standards

Science as Inquiry: K-2: 1.1.1,1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5; 3-4: 1.1.1, 1.1.4; 5-7: 1.1.1, 1.1.4, 1.3.1

Physical Science: 3-4: 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2.2; 5-7: 2.1.1

Earth Science: K-2: 4.1.1; 5-7: 4.1.1

History and Nature of Science: K-2: 7.1.1; 3-4: 7.1.1