

Amaze Your Brain *at Home!*

EXPERIMENTS

BEST FOR
ALL
AGES

MAKE A SALTY FOSSIL

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Carefully cut sponge into the shape of a bone or bones.
2. Make a supersaturated solution of salt water:
 - a. Add salt to warm water.
 - b. Stir to mix.
 - c. Continue steps a and b until there is extra undissolved salt in the water.
3. Soak sponge in salt water.
4. Move wet sponge into waterproof container.
5. Add sand to container until sponge is completely buried.
6. Pour salt water over sand until a little excess water is visible.
7. Wait. Leave your container in a warm spot until sand is fully dry, about 1 week.
8. Excavate your 'fossilized' sponge!

MATERIALS

- Epsom salt (can replace with table salt)
- Sand (can replace with dirt)
- Sponge
- Scissors
- Waterproof container
- Very warm water
- Spoon



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Fossils are evidence of past life. One way fossils can form is when parts of bone are replaced by something else, such as minerals. This process is called permineralization.

In this activity, the sponge is acting as the bone and the salt as the mineral. Did salt crystals fill any of the open spaces in your sponge? How is this process similar to and different from the way fossils actually form?

Watch this experiment on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/JOxPAsvRNbE>



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