

Explore How can you observe a mineral wear away?

Model the wearing away of a mineral. The chalk represents the mineral. The wearing away is caused by rocks and water.

Materials



plastic jar with lid



chalk



rocks



timer or stopwatch
(or clock with
second hand)



water

Process Skills

You **infer** when you base ideas on **observations**. Carefully comparing and contrasting observations can help you make good inferences.

What to Do

- 1 Shake chalk and rocks in a jar for 1 minute. Look for changes in the chalk. Shake for 3 minutes more. **Observe** the chalk.



- 2 Empty the jar. Fill the jar $\frac{1}{2}$ full with water. Repeat step 1 using the same rocks, 4 new pieces of chalk, and water.



Explain Your Results

1. How did the chalk change after being shaken with rocks for 1 minute? for 3 more minutes? Compare and contrast your **observations**.
2. **Infer** Compared to shaking chalk with only rocks, what effect did shaking chalk with both rocks and water have on the chalk?