

Rock Erosion

Procedure

- 1. Experiment** Using a nail, scratch the calcite over a plastic bowl. In a separate bowl repeat the procedure with halite. There should be a small pile of dust in each bowl. **Safety:** Wear goggles during this activity.
- 2. Predict** What do you think will happen to the minerals when they come in contact with vinegar? Write your prediction on the lines below.

- 3. Observe** Using an eyedropper, add 3–6 drops of vinegar to the calcite. Using the hand lens, observe the reaction. Do the same in the bowl containing halite. Then wash your hands.
- 4. Record Data** Draw a picture of the calcite and halite reactions in the space below.



Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions.

1. **Compare** How do the reactions of the calcite and halite differ?

2. **Predict** Based on your data, predict how acid rain can break down or weather rocks. How do your results support this prediction?

3. **Infer** Why are most caves and caverns formed in limestone?

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment Can water break apart rocks when it freezes into ice? Find out in an experiment with chalk, water, a plastic bag, and a freezer.