

Smash It!

Procedure

- 1. Observe** Use a hand lens to look at a chunk of rock salt. Record your observations on the lines below. **Safety:** Wear goggles as you perform the procedure.

- 2. Collaborate** Place a chunk of rock salt into the mortar. With a partner, use the pestle to crush the rock salt into smaller pieces.
- 3. Observe** Use the hand lens to look at the crushed rock salt. On the lines below, record what the salt looks like.

- 4. Record Data** Now grind the rock salt into even smaller pieces. Look at the pieces with the hand lens. Record what they look like.

- 5. Ask Questions** Grind the salt into fine powder. Look at the powder with your hand lens and record what you see. Do you think the powder is as small as a pestle could grind the rock salt?

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

- 1. Analyze Data** Compare your observations of the different-size pieces of rock salt. Compare and contrast how it looked at each size.

- 2. Predict** What do you think the salt would look like under a microscope if you could grind it into even finer pieces?

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment Try this experiment with other substances, such as sugar cubes, cereal, or table salt. Compare the different particles that result.

