

# Rock Erosion



## Procedure

**Safety:** Wear goggles during this activity.

- 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.
- 2. Predict** What do you think will happen to the minerals when they come in contact with vinegar? Write your predictions below.

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- 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.

## Conclusion

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

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

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3. **Infer** Why are most caves and caverns formed in limestone, a kind of rock made from calcite?

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## Design an Experiment

### Guided Inquiry

Can water break apart rocks when it freezes into ice?  
Design an experiment using chalk, water, a plastic bag, and a freezer.