

## EARTH SCIENCES

Today I want to do some earth science. The making a volcano experiment is for a future week. What I would like you to do today is put salt on a stick.

This is what you can end up with



But, kids, it takes time! Note to parents – it may teach patience

**Materials** – hope you have them parents

- Bowl
- Toothpicks
- Salt
- Play dough or modelling clay (non hardening)
- Cup
- Measuring spoons

**Directions**

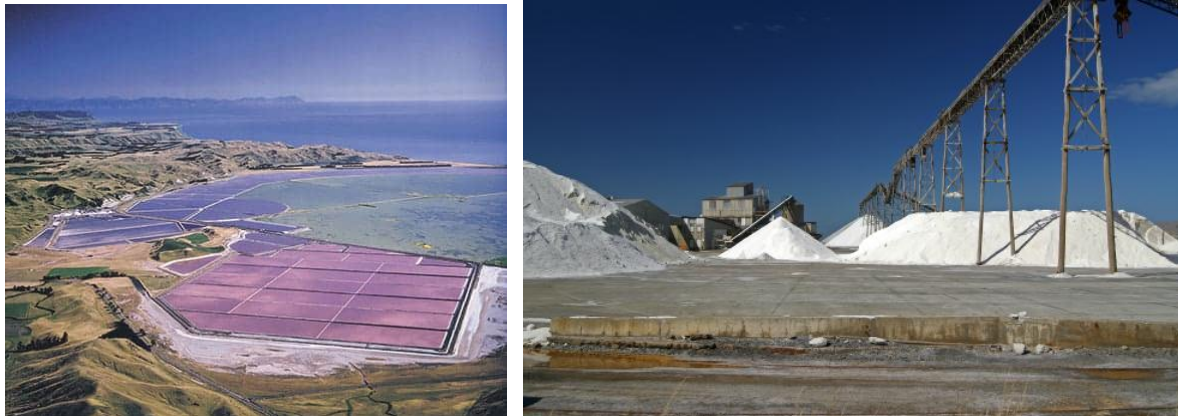
- Pour hot water into a cup (careful – don't burn yourself)
- Add a tablespoon of salt and stir until it is dissolved.
- Add more salt one tablespoon at a time.
- Continue adding salt until your solution is supersaturated and no more salt will dissolve.
- Set the cup of salt water aside.
- Make a small round ball with your play dough and stick to the bottom of the bowl

- Repeat till you have the number of balls of play dough you want (4, 6, 8?)
- Stick a single toothpick in the play dough so they stick straight up
- Set the bowl in a warm area so the water can evaporate.
- Each day look at the crystals forming on the sticks.
- Take some photos as the salt starts to form. I would love to see them

### Some questions

- What do we need salt for?
- Salt makes you? (thirsty)
- What taste does sea water have?

Did you know that we make salt in the South Island at a place called Lake Grassmere when sea water evaporates in shallow ponds?



Finally – have you heard of the Dead Sea in Israel where the sea is so salty that you can float in the water. Click on the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhkijfRtMOo>

By Colin Price

