# Description

***Geology*Distance Learning – Middle School Activity**

**Evaporite Basins-Making Crystals**

In this activity, students will use household items to create an analog for a real-world geological depositional environment called an “evaporite basin.” This activity introduces / reinforces the concepts of evaporation, solubility, saturation, and precipitation, and how these concepts interact in the real world to produce deposits of the mineral “halite,” aka salt. Over the course of up to a few weeks, students will observe their own deposits of halite grow in their experimental environment.

# Deliverables

Students will grow halite over a few weeks, and they are encouraged to periodically make observations, which you may decide to collect. You may have students submit a photo or periodic photos of their experiments.

Some brief further reading on a real-world evaporite basin on the last page of the handout could serve as a launching point for further reflection or a small research project.

# Standards Correlation

6.P.2 – Understand the structure, classifications, and physical properties of matter.

8.P.1 – Understand the properties of matter and changes that occur when matter interacts in an open and closed container.

8.E.1 – Understand the hydrosphere and the impact of humans on local systems and the effects of the hydrosphere on humans.

8.E.2 – Understand the history of the Earth and its lifeforms based on evidence of change recorded in the fossil record and landforms.

# For More Information

Please contact the North Carolina Geological Survey’s outreach specialist Will Blocher at [william.blocher@ncdenr.gov](mailto:william.blocher@ncdenr.gov) or visit our Geoscience Education page at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-land-resources/north-carolina-geological-survey/geoscience-education>

We’d love to hear from you!  
Please give us feedback [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3IF2etC5mkSFw-zCbNftGeRWa4Q1AflMpi39Z4cQtn9UNDkyRTRLRjVGNVU3V0RMVDNPSUFSODc4Ry4u) so we can better serve you and your students.