

Make your own rock
Investigating how loose sediment may be stuck together to form a 'rock'

From Mary, New Mexico

Another approach to 'cementing' the rock is with salt. Place some sediment in a jar or beaker then add water followed by salt. Stir the sediment and water until the salt dissolves. This helps to show that sedimentary rocks are made from pre-existing particles and ions dissolved in the water. The water can then be evaporated and the salt will 'cement' the sand. You may either heat the sample to evaporate the water or just leave it in a warm place over a period of time.