



Salty Saucers

This activity demonstrates the often invisible element of the water cycle, evaporation. Variations in where the saucers are located can be used to demonstrate the power of heat to speed up water loss. The salt and food colouring will crystallise as the water evaporates, providing a really clear demonstration.

Equipment required

- Shallow wide dishes
- Salt
- Water
- Blue food colouring

To complete the activity

1. This can be done in groups or as a whole class activity.
2. Give each group a few different bowls.
3. Ask learners to mix the water and salt together in the bowls, then add a few drops of the food colouring.
4. There's lots of different ways the learners can experiment, by adding more or less water, increasing the quantities of salt and placing the bowls in different locations, some in the sun, some in the shade, some by radiators.
5. Once each group has decided on its variations ask learners to label each bowl.
6. The learners will need to check their bowls twice a day for a few days. The results should be collected and discussed as a class. Which one evaporated faster? What was different about it?