



Desalination Experiment

Water covers 71% of the earth's surface and is a necessity for all living things. Most of this water is in oceans and is not consumable for humans because of the salt content.



Desalination is a process that removes salt from water providing fresh water!

WARNING: This activity involves using boiling water. Please do under supervision of an adult.

Materials:

- Salt
- Pot
- Large Bowl
- Small Container
- Plastic Wrap
- Rubber Band
- Rock



Instructions:

1. Make saltwater by adding salt to a pot filled with water. Boil and mix until the salt is completely dissolved into the water.
2. Pour saltwater into a large bowl and place a small container into the center of the bowl.
 - Make sure no saltwater gets into the small container
 - Ensure the small container sits flat on the bottom of the large bowl and does not move around.
3. Cover the large bowl with plastic wrap. Secure the plastic wrap with a rubber band around the large bowl.
4. Place the rock on top of the plastic in the center over the small container. This allows the evaporated water to drip into the container.
 - Allow the plastic to hang down slightly but making sure it does not touch the water
5. Place the large bowl into direct sunlight for several hours.
6. There should now be water in the small container.

Alternatively keep the saltwater in the pot and add a boil safe container or mug. Cover with tinfoil, place a rock on top and simmer for 10 minutes ensuring that it does not boil dry. Turn the heat off and allow to cool for 30 minutes.

Discussion:

- Why was a rock used on top of the plastic?
- How did the water get into the small container?
- Is the water in the small container salty or fresh?
- Can you think of other ways you could desalinate water?