

## Create a Cool Petrification Station

Did you know that Yellowstone has groves of petrified trees scattered across the park? In this activity, you'll create your own petrified log.

### What You'll Need

- » 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate)
- » 2 tablespoons of water
- » 1 paper towel (folded into quarters)
- » 1 plate



### What To Do

1. Mix the Epsom salt and water on the plate. Roll the paper towel into a log or tube shape. Place the paper towel on the plate.
2. Wait for the Epsom salt and water mixture to disappear. It may take up to a week to dry completely.
3. Observe! What do you notice about your paper towel log?

### Why It Works

Wood (your paper towel log) petrifies, or turns to stone, as dissolved minerals (your Epsom salt and water mixture) are absorbed and the minerals slowly replace the wood cells.

