



Stalactite Project

Stalactites and stalagmites found in caves are an impressive feature of nature but they take a long time to form, let's speed up the process by making our own stalactites and stalagmites.

With enough time they might even join in the middle and form a column.

Make Stalactites and Stalagmites

What you'll need:

- Two glass jars
- A saucer
- Woolen thread
- Either baking soda, washing soda or Epsom salts

Instructions:

1. Fill both jars with hot water. Dissolve as much soda as you can into each one.
2. Place the two jars in a warm place and put the saucer between them.
3. Twist several strands of woolen thread together before dipping the ends into the jars and letting the middle of the thread hang down above the saucer. The ends can be weighed down with various small, heavy objects to keep them in the jars.
4. The two solutions should creep along the thread until they reach the middle and then drip down onto the saucer.
5. Watch what happens to the experiment over the next few days.
6. Don't forget to wash your hands when you've finished.



What's happening?

Over a few days the dripping water will leave behind the baking soda, forming a tiny stalactite (which forms from the roof) and stalagmite (which forms from the ground). With enough time these may eventually join to create a single column. Stalactites and stalagmites are columns of stone which form in underground caves. They are made from minerals dissolved in rainwater that slowly drips from the roofs and walls of caves.

One Final Step

Take a couple photos of your stalactites and stalagmites and send them to me at Tsavorite7@aol.com. I'll publish them in the next issue of the *Rockhounds Herald*.

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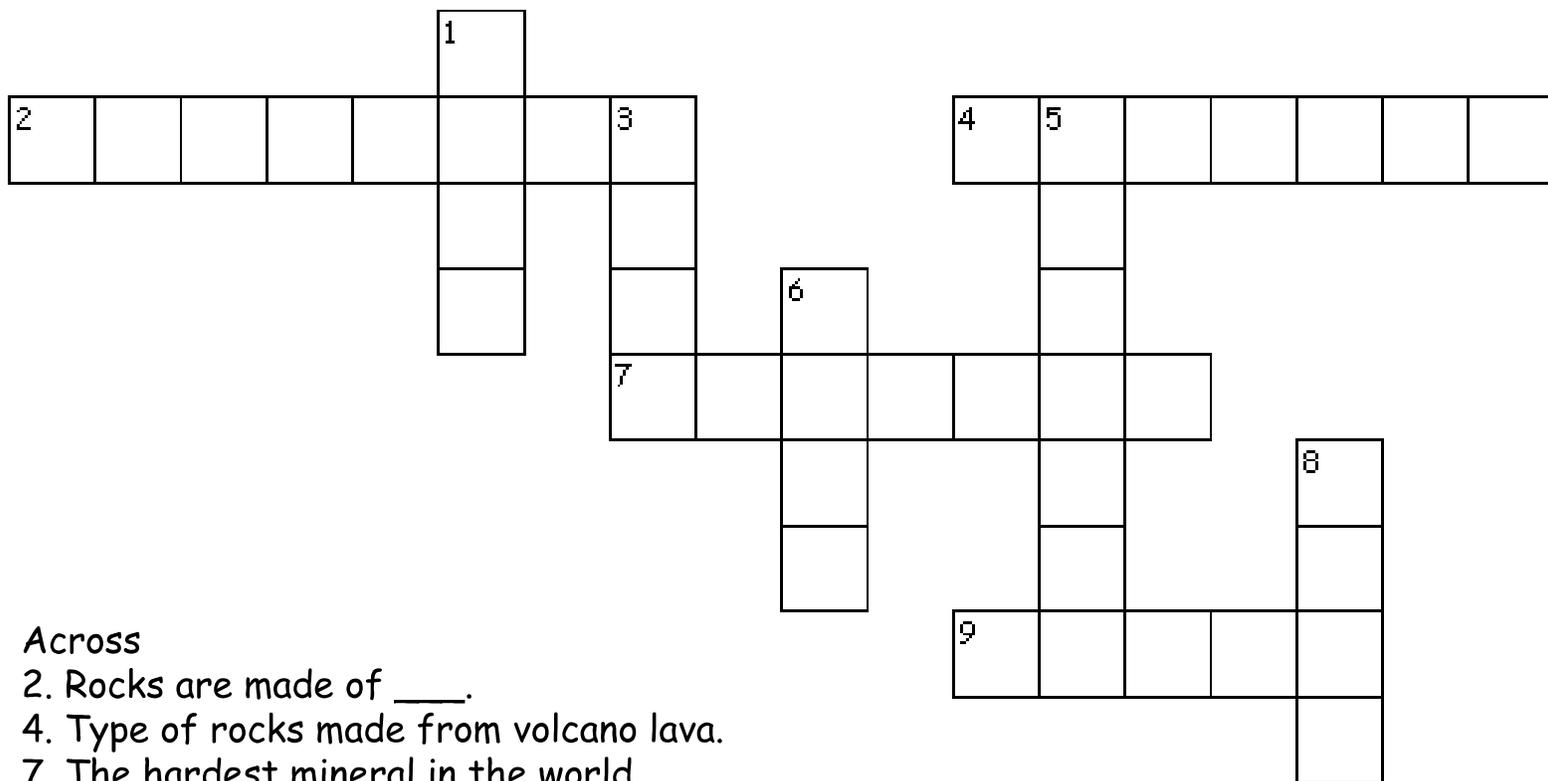
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CROSSWORD #2 ROCKS & MINERALS



Across

2. Rocks are made of ____.
4. Type of rocks made from volcano lava.
7. The hardest mineral in the world.
9. June birthstone.

Down

1. Melted rock that comes out of a volcano during and eruption.
3. Small quartz grains found on the beach.
5. Igneous rock often used for counter tops.
6. Large open areas in limestone rock worn away by rain water.
8. The halite mineral is also known as ____.

Choose From: **Igneous, Diamond, Quartz, Cave, Lava, Minerals, Pearl, Granite, Sand, Salt**

