



Curiosity Guide #503

Rocks

Accompanies Curious Crew, Season 5, Episode 3 (#503)

Sponge Rocks

Investigation #6

Description

When is a rock not a rock? When it's a---sponge??!? Just kidding. Or not. Find out here!

Materials

- A piece of chalk
- Pumice
- Bowls
- Water
- Digital scale

Procedure

- 1) Weigh the chalk and pumice in grams on the digital scale.
- 2) Record the weight of each rock.
- 3) Place each rock in its own bowl of water.
- 4) Leave the chalk in the water for 15 minutes. Leave the pumice in the water for a whole day.
- 5) Weigh both rocks a second time.
- 6) Why do the weights of the two rocks change?

My Results

Explanation

Even though rocks appear solid, they have tiny spaces that can get filled with air, water, oil, or natural gas. Submerged rocks will absorb water until the rocks are saturated. Every additional gram in weight the rock absorbed would equal one milliliter of water, or one cubic centimeter. Porous rocks like pumice can absorb a lot of water because there are so many air pockets that can be filled. This makes you wonder about the expression "solid as a rock!"

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