

**Salt of the Earth**  
**Who can make the biggest salt crystal?**

***From Mary, New Mexico***

I used this activity as an introduction to minerals in a recent workshop for future teachers. It ended up being a wonderful organizing activity for the entire workshop. Following the instructions in the activity all of the seed crystals dissolved! So began two weeks of experimenting to see what effect changing different variables had on the growing and/or dissolving salt crystals. It offered a great opening to talk about experimental design for students, need to control variables, and keeping a journal of what was done and what happened.