



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

## THE PLAYA

### TRY THIS AT HOME

#### Materials

- Cookie sheet
- 2 sheets of black construction paper
- 2 tablespoons (30 mL) of table salt
- 1 cup (250 mL) of tap water
- spoon

#### Procedure

- Cover the bottom of the cookie sheet with the black paper.
- Add the salt to the water in the cup and stir. Most, but usually not all, of the salt will dissolve.
- Pour the salty water over the paper. Try not to pour any undissolved salt onto the paper. Allow the undissolved salt to remain in the cup.
- Place the cookie sheet in a sunny place where it will not be disturbed for several days. This can be by a window or outdoors if the weather is warm and dry.
- Observe the paper daily until it is dry.

#### Results

- A thin layer of white crystals forms on the paper. A few small, white, cubic crystals form after several days.

#### Why?

- As the sun heats the salty water, the water evaporates and dry salt is left on the paper. This experiment is similar to a method used by some salt companies to produce salt by the evaporation of water from seawater.

