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Migration and Trapping

of Natural Gas and Oil

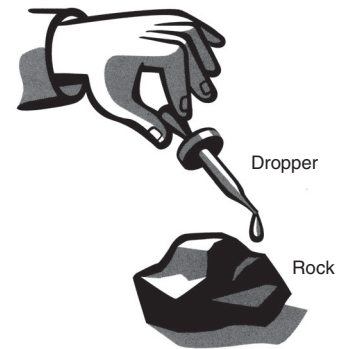
Experiment

Absorbing Rocks

What happens when you put drops of oil on different rock samples?

Materials:

- 5 rocks (can be collected by students, but should include samples of limestone or sandstone and granite)
- 1 eyedropper or pipette
- About 1/8 cup vegetable oil
- Paper towels
- Pencil and paper for data collection



Procedure:

1. Identify rock samples, if possible.
2. Predict and record a guess about whether each sample will absorb the oil or not.
3. Use the dropper and put 3 drops of oil on each rock.
4. Observe and record data for each rock.
5. Rank order the rock samples from best absorbent to least absorbent.

Note: Your rocks will eventually become saturated with oil. Replace your samples regularly or use water instead of oil.

Continued...

Experiment, Continued

Absorbing Rocks

Questions and Explanations:

1. Why did some rocks absorb it and some did not?
2. Would the same results occur with water instead of oil?
3. Which rock might hold the most oil and why?
4. Where are the best geologic conditions for oil deposits?

Reflection:

1. How can scientists use geology to help find oil deposits?
2. What other methods are scientists using to find oil?