Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Causes of Weathering

**Purpose**

The purpose of this lab is to evaluate the cause of weathering and the effect agricultural production has on weathering.[[1]](#endnote-2)

**Procedure**

**Materials**

1. 1-L Plastic container with lid
2. Rocks
3. Water
4. Strainer
5. Clear glass jar
6. Hand lens

**Sequence of Steps**

1. Fill a 1-L plastic container about half full of rocks. Add enough water to barely cover the rocks.
2. Place a tight-fitting lid on the container and shake the container vigorously 100 times.
3. Hold a strainer over a clear glass jar. Pour the water and rocks into the strainer.
4. Use a hand lens to observe the bottom and sides of the empty container. Then use the hand lens to observe the water in the glass jar.

**C:\Users\Angela\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DRP2N1IJ\MCj04242300000[1].wmf Observations**

1. What did you see on the bottom or sides of the empty container during Step 4?
2. How did shaking the rock-and-water mixture change the appearance of the water?
3. How do you think your observations would change if you put the rocks and water back in the container and repeated Steps 2 through 4 several more times?
4. Suppose you found a stream where water ran over a rock ledge into a pool. What would you expect to find at the bottom of the pool?
5. In your own words, describe the process of weathering.
6. Agriculturists use water for many purposes, including irrigating fields and cleaning facilities or equipment.
   1. Could this cause weathering?
   2. What else could excess water run-off cause?
   3. How might surrounding soil, used for planting crops, be affected?
7. Agriculturists are committed to the environment. What do you suppose agriculturists currently do, and what could they do in the future, to effectively manage water use?

1. Tarbuck, E, & Lutgens, F (2009). *Earth Science*.Boston, MA: Prentice Hall. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)