



Activity 12. The visible and the invisible

Aim

To demonstrate the difference between dissolved and suspended solids in water.

Materials required

- a large glass beaker or jar table salt
- blackboard chalk or talcum powder
- spoon or stirring rod

Procedure

1. Fill the beaker with tap water.
2. Place a teaspoon of table salt into the jar and stir. Note what happens to the salt.
3. Place a teaspoon of chalk into the jar. Observe that the dispersed powder is visible in the jar.
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Which material was dissolved in the water and which was suspended.
 - b. Which material would be easier to remove? Why?
 - c. How could we detect the presence of the salt in the water?

Following up

As an additional step the suspended powder can be removed using a sand filter.