

## Limestone Recipe

### Materials for each group of four students

- 3 Heaping spoonfuls of plaster of paris
- 1-2 Heaping spoonfuls of oyster shells
- Pinch of ONE of the following
  - Sand
  - Clay
- 50 ml Water
- 1 Mixing cup
- 1 Plastic spoon
- 1 Container with sandstone and shale layers (basin)
- 1 Paper towel

### Instructions

1. Measure 3 spoonfuls of plaster of paris into the cup.  
**NOTE:** The plaster acts as the matrix for our limestone. Calcium carbonate would usually act as the matrix itself, but we don't have a few million years to wait for this to happen.
2. Measure the other dry materials into the cup.
3. Record the amount of *each material* you used in the space below, called "Our Limestone Recipe."
4. Add 50 ml of water to the cup.
5. Stir the ingredients together. The mixture should be as thick as paste. If you need more water, add a *tiny bit* at a time. It should not be runny.
6. Spread your mixture on top of the shale layer in your basin. Smooth and compact it with your spoon.
7. Rinse and wipe off your spoon and mixing cup and place them into the rinse basin.

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