



NSF GK-12 Graduate Fellows Program

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Create Your Own Acid Rain

Activity Instructions

by

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HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN ACID RAIN

One acid-rain simulation is to burn a small sample of sulfur in a gas jar which contains a small amount of water. Cover the jar and shake. Test the water with chemical indicators. Where does the sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere come from? Is the burning of sulfur used commercially to prepare acids from sulfur?

Another involves collecting automobile exhaust samples and proceeding in the same way. (Caution: Collect the samples carefully to avoid the toxic effects of the exhaust and avoid burns from the tail pipe.) Is the automobile exhaust toxic due to an acid effect of carbon monoxide? Is the "acid rain" produced here a result of a reaction of carbon monoxide with water?