

Tasty Rocks

On SCOPE's Shaping the Earth episode, Julia cooked up some tasty rocks!
Here's how you can do it at home:



What you need:

Apron
Mixing bowl
Sieve
Measuring cups
Measuring spoons
Wooden spoon
Icing sugar
Cocoa
Shredded coconut
Rice puffs
Copa
Saucepan
Stove
Patty pans
Oven tray



What to do:

1. Put on the apron.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Sift into the mixing bowl 1 cup of icing sugar and 3 tablespoons of cocoa.
4. Add 1 cup of coconut and 4 cups of rice puffs.
5. Using the wooden spoon, mix all the dry ingredients together.
6. Place 250g of copha into a saucepan.
7. Turn on the stove to a low heat. Young scientists will need an adult to help for this part.
8. Place the saucepan on the stove and leave it there until the copha has melted.
9. Turn off the stove.
10. Pour the melted copha into the mixing bowl of dry ingredients.
11. Mix all the ingredients together with a wooden spoon.
12. Lay out patty pans on an oven tray.
13. Place a spoonful of mixture into each patty pan.
14. Place the tray in the fridge to cool.



After an hour your tasty rocks should be ready to eat!

What's happening?

This is a model of sandstone, which is a type of sedimentary rock.

On earth there are rocks everywhere and there are many different types of them. Although, when it comes to how they were formed, there are only 3 types; igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. Igneous rocks form when magma cools into solid form; metamorphic rocks are rocks which have completely changed due to high pressure and heat; and sedimentary rocks are made up of sediments and are formed when bits of rock and plants are compressed together.

Sandstone forms over millions of years when layers of sand build up on top of each other. The lower layers are put under so much pressure that the sand compacts. Tiny minerals then fall in between the grains of sand cementing the sandstone.

In the model, the rice puffs are the grains of sand, the sugar and cocoa are all the minerals that stick the grains of sand together and the bits of shredded coconut are the bits of animal and plant matter that get caught in the rocks as they form!